

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

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**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.*

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# First Dates of Iowa Birds

Thomas H. Kent and Judy A. Putney

## INTRODUCTION

The first dates for species on the official Iowa list reflect the history of Iowa ornithology. There has been no prior attempt to publish a single list of the first documented report for each of Iowa's 425 acceptably documented species through the end of 2013. We have done a thorough review of the literature on Iowa's birds to compile such a list and present the results in this paper. It is our hope that those interested in Iowa's birds and history of birding will find this list informative.

## METHODS

We found the early dates by searching from the oldest to the most recent references and associating them with the appropriate species on the current official list of 425 species. The inclusion of records in the list is based on the best judgment of the authors and some evidence of date, location, and/or observer. The references are the first or most useful reference. Criteria for acceptance to this first-date list are less stringent than for records reviewed by the Records Committee of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. Many of the early records are based on reasonable probability; e.g., American Robin is listed by Audubon. Many of the first dates are from early explorers and settlers. Another example is a Sprague's Pipit shot by a reputable early Iowa ornithologist, Dr. I.S. Trostler, that lacked description required by the IOU Records Committee. Another record not accepted by the Records Committee was the California Gull but we listed as a first date based on additional comments and subsequent occurrence. Archeological records are not included. Many of the early records are from lists with minimal data. The table includes the date and the first or most useful reference. Citable references are included in the Literature Cited, other references are noted in the body of the list; e.g., "specimen at Smithsonian" or "records committee #".

The list is sorted by year, month, and date (yyyy-mm-dd). The county locations are

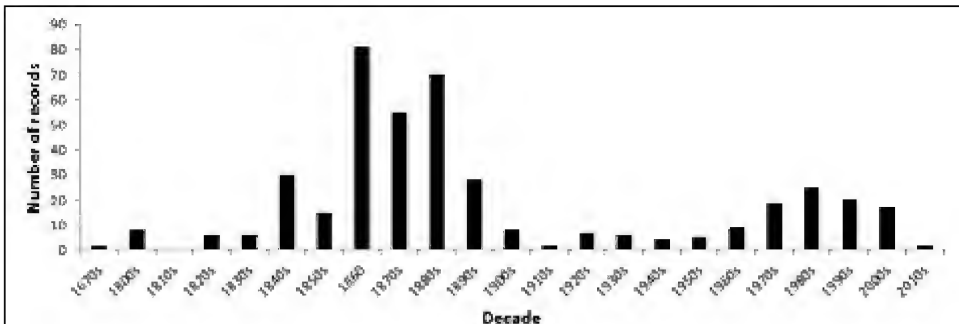


Figure 1. The number of first Iowa records by decade, 1670 to present.

italicized. Exact counties for all records were not known, and we have included all references to those that were known. "1887\_ca" means circa 1887, but could have been an earlier year or unspecified month. Other abbreviations include USNM=US National Museum, SP=Spring, SU=Summer, FA=Fall, WI=Winter and general location in the state (e.g., W IA=Western Iowa, NE=Northeastern, R=River).

## RESULTS

The Iowa list currently stands at 425 species of birds (Table 1). The number of first records by decade shows the peak in early ornithological work from about 1860 to 1900, followed by a second period of increased activity from the 1970s through present day (Figure 1). In 1673, Marquette and Joliet were not only the first white men to enter Iowa but also the first to record birds in Iowa when they saw a Trumpeter Swan and Wild Turkey somewhere in Northeastern Iowa after they had entered the Mississippi River. The next mention of birds in Iowa (131 years later) is from 1804 when Lewis and Clark recorded Canada Goose and eight other species (Kent 2003). The next first dates come from another government expedition up the Missouri River in 1819-1820 (James 1823). Further reports of new species come from steamboat exploration of the Missouri River (Maximilian and Audubon) and Hayden's Pacific Railroad surveys (Baird 1885).

More comprehensive finding of new birds was facilitated by the railroads reaching inland locations in the 1860s and 1870s (Allen 1868, Parker 1871, and Trippe 1873). Two students (Keyes and Williams 1889) who studied at Ames and Iowa City listed their specimen collections of Iowa birds, which we consider to be the first attempt at a complete list of Iowa birds.

Beginning in the 1890s the number of new species recorded diminished to a low point in 1910, then gradually begin to increase in the 1960s. New species were encountered less frequently during war times (Civil and Spanish American wars, World War I, and World War II). The 1970s to 2000s produced many new state records. At least two factors were in play with this recent increase: 1) an increase in birding activity and expertise, and 2) the expansion of water habitat including four reservoirs were associated with 13 new gull species and many other waterbirds. Future additions to the Iowa bird list can certainly be expected, but probably at a much slower pace because many of the most likely vagrants have already been detected.

## LITERATURE CITED

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- Audubon, M. R., and E. Coues. 1897. *Audubon and His Journals*. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.
- Ayres, C. C. 1976. A rare Ivory Gull at Rathbun Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 46:15-16.
- Bailey, M. 1929. [no title]. *Bulletin of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union* 7:3.

*LITERATURE CITED, continued on page 11*

Table 1. First known dates of occurrence for Iowa birds, 1673 to present.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 1673\_ca NE Iowa (Marquette 1673).

**Wild Turkey:** 1673\_ca NE Iowa (Marquette 1673).

**Canada Goose:** 1804-07-19, *Fremont* (Kent 2003).

**Great Egret:** 1804-08-02, *Pottawattamie* (Kent 2003).

**Least Tern:** 1804-08-05, *Harrison* (Kent 2003).

**American White Pelican:** 1804-08-08, *Harrison* (Kent 2003).

**Great Blue Heron:** 1804-08-11, *Monona* (Kent 2003).

**Carolina Parakeet:** 1804-SU, *Woodbury*, Wm Clark in Kent (2003).

**Piping Plover:** 1804-SU, Little Sioux R. (Kent 2003).

**Wood Duck:** 1804-SU, Missouri R. (Kent 2003).

**Sandhill Crane:** 1820-03-24, Boyer R., *Harrison*, Thomas Say in James (1823).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** 1820-05-23, *Page*, John R. Bell in Fuller and Hafin (1957).

**Barn Swallow:** 1820-05-24, *Page/Fremont*, John R. Bell in Fuller and Hafin (1957).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1820-SP, Boyer Creek, *Harrison* (James 1823).

**Surf Scoter:** 1820-SP, *Harrison*, Thomas Say, specimen description in Kent (2010).

**Black-billed Magpie:** 1820-W1, *Pottawattamie*, Say in James (1823).

**Cliff Swallow:** 1833\_ca Missouri R., Maximilian in Anderson (1907).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** 1834-05-04, above Omaha, Maximilian in Kent and McCaffrey (2012).

**Baltimore Oriole:** 1834-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 1834-05-10, Soldier R., Maximilian in Kent and McCaffrey (2012).

**Common Tern:** 1834-05-12, Council Bluffs, *Pottawattamie* (Anderson 1907).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** 1834-05-13, Boyer Creek, *Harrison*, Maximilian in Kent and McCaffrey (2012).

**Mallard:** 1843\_ca Missouri R. (Audubon and Coues 1897).

**American Crow:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, *Pottawattamie*, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Eastern Bluebird:** 1843-05-09, southern IA Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**House Wren:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, *Pottawattamie*, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Osprey:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Purple Martin:** 1843-05-09, southern IA Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Savannah Sparrow:** 1843-05-09, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Tufted Titmouse:** 1843-05-09, southern IA Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1843-05-09, Missouri R., Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**American Robin:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Chipping Sparrow:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Common Grackle:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Palm Warbler:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Swallow-tailed Kite:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1843-05-10, above Omaha (Audubon and Coues 1897).

**Franklin's Gull:** 1843-05-11, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Tree Swallow:** 1843-05-11, near Bellevue, NE, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Turkey Vulture:** 1843-05-11, above Omaha, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1843-05-11, above Omaha, Harris in Audubon and Coues (1897).

**Bank Swallow:** 1843-05-12, *Harrison*, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1843-05-12, *Harrison*, Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Harris's Sparrow:** 1843-05-13, Boyer R., *Harrison*, Harris in Audubon and Coues (1897).

**Lark Bunting:** 1843-05-13, Missouri R., Bell in Audubon and Coues (1897).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 1843-05-13, Missouri R., Bell in Audubon and Coues (1897).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1843-10-01, near Big Sioux R., Audubon in Audubon and Coues (1897)

**Sharp-tailed Grouse:** 1850\_ca Polk (DuMont 1933a).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1856\_ca Council Bluffs, *Pottawattamie*, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 1856\_ca below Sioux City, Dr. Hayes in Baird (1858).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** 1856-04-24, Big Sioux River mouth, Woodbury, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Ovenbird:** 1856-04-27, Platte River mouth, Mills, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** 1856-04-27, Platte River mouth, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Yellow Warbler:** 1856-04-27, Platte River mouth, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 1856-04-28, Council Bluffs, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 1856-05-03, Big Sioux River mouth, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Lark Sparrow:** 1857\_ca Big Sioux River mouth, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** 1857-05-05, Big Sioux River mouth, Hayden in Baird (1858).

**Brown Thrasher:** 1858\_ca Quasqueton, *Buchanan*, Bidwell in Baird (1858).

**Northern Bobwhite:** 1858\_ca Quasqueton, *Buchanan*, Bidwell in Baird (1858).

**Northern Flicker:** 1858\_ca Quasqueton, *Buchanan*, Bidwell in Baird (1858).

**Northern Harrier:** 1858\_ca Quasqueton, *Buchanan*, Bidwell in Baird (1858).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1860-05, Dubuque, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 9830.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 1864-05-13, Woodbury, specimen at U.S. Natl. Museum in DuMont (1933a).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 1864-05-17, Sioux City, Woodbury, Feilner, J., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 34230.

**American Redstart:** 1864-05-20, Sioux City, Woodbury, Feilner, J., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 34172.

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 1864-05-20, Sioux City, Woodbury, Feilner, J., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 34181.

**Scarlet Tanager:** 1864-05-26, Sioux City, Woodbury, Feilner, J., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 34177.

**Indigo Bunting:** 1864-05-28, Sioux City, Woodbury, Feilner, J., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 34208.

**Common Nighthawk:** 1865-04-25, Dubuque, Dubuque, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 9813.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1865-05-13, Dubuque, Dubuque, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 9817.

**Horned Lark:** 1865-05-14, Dubuque, Dubuque, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 9820.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 1865-05-24, Woodbury, Warren, G.K., specimen at Smithsonian USNM 40527.

**Dickcissel:** 1865-06-18, Dubuque, Dubuque, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 9821.

**Virginia Rail:** 1866-06-30, Blackburn Brothers, specimen at Smithsonian USNM B 12810.

**Winter Wren:** 1867, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Orchard Oriole:** 1867\_ca western IA (Allen 1868).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 1867-SP, Boonesboro, Boone (Allen 1868).

**American Black Duck:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Blue-winged Teal:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Green-winged Teal:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Ruffed Grouse:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**American Bittern:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Green Heron:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**American Golden-Plover:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Semipalmated Plover:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Killdeer:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Long-billed Curlew:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Least Sandpiper:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1867-Sept., Jefferson, *Greene* (Allen 1868).

**Wilson's Snipe:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**American Woodcock:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Black Tern:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Mourning Dove:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Great Horned Owl:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Barred Owl:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Chimney Swift:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Belted Kingfisher:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Downy Woodpecker:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**American Kestrel:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Least Flycatcher:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Eastern Phoebe:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Western Kingbird:** 1867-SU, Boone, *Boone* (Allen 1868).

**Eastern Kingbird:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Warbling Vireo:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Blue Jay:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Brown Creeper:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Veery:** 1867-July, near Boone, *Boone* (Allen 1868).

**Wood Thrush:** 1867-July, near Boone, *Boone* (Allen 1868).

**Gray Catbird:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**American Pipit:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Tennessee Warbler:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Common Yellowthroat:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Cerulean Warbler:** 1867-SU, near Boone, *Boone* (Allen 1868).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1867-SU, Denison, *Crawford* (Allen 1868).

**Eastern Towhee:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Field Sparrow:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Song Sparrow:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Bobolink:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Western Meadowlark:** 1867-SU, Denison, *Crawford* (Allen 1868).

**American Goldfinch:** 1867-SU, western IA (Allen 1868).

**Peregrine Falcon:** 1868\_ca *Poweshiek and Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**House Sparrow:** 1869\_ca Burlington *Des Moines Barrows* 1889).

**Swainson's Thrush:** 1870\_SP, *Poweshiek/Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**Snow Bunting:** 1870\_WI, *Clinton* (Parker 1871).

**American Coot:** 1870\_ca *Poweshiek/Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**Bald Eagle:** 1870\_ca *Poweshiek/Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 1870\_ca *Poweshiek/Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**Forster's Tern:** 1870\_ca *Clinton* (Parker 1871).

**Gadwall:** 1870\_ca *Polk and Clinton* (Parker 1871).

**Golden Eagle:** 1870\_ca *Poweshiek/Jasper* (Parker 1871).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1870\_ca Clinton (Parker 1871).

**Hermit Thrush:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Hooded Merganser:** 1870\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Nashville Warbler:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Northern Cardinal:** 1870\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 1870\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Purple Finch:** 1870\_ca Clinton (Parker 1871).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 1870\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Ring-necked Duck:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Snow Goose:** 1870\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Sora:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1870\_ca Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1870-02-14, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 201).

**Lapland Longspur:** 1870-02-16, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 204).

**American Tree Sparrow:** 1870-02-26, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 210).

**Smith's Longspur:** 1870-03-17, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 220).

**Northern Pintail:** 1870-04-07, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 230).

**Passenger Pigeon:** 1870-06-21, Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Whooping Crane:** 1870-11-15, Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Swamp Sparrow:** 1870-Oct., Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Red Crossbill:** 1871\_ca Lee (Parker 1871).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1871-0502, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 344).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1871-05-02, Mahaska (Trippe Journal, p. 344).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 1871-05-12, Guthrie (Trippe Journal, p. 353).

**White-eyed Vireo:** 1871-06-01, Poweshiek/Jasper (Parker 1871).

**Northern Mockingbird:** 1871-06-25, Lee (Parker 1871).

**Fox Sparrow:** 1871-12-10, Decatur (Trippe Journal, p. 366).

**Snowy Owl:** 1871-12-10, Decatur (Trippe Journal, p. 369, 371).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 1871-Dec., Decatur (Trippe Journal, p. 387).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** 1872\_ca Decatur/Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Canada Warbler:** 1872\_ca Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Common Redpoll:** 1872\_ca Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Hooded Warbler:** 1872\_ca Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Long-eared Owl:** 1872\_ca Decatur/Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Merlin:** 1872\_ca Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1872\_ca Decatur/Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Rock Wren:** 1872-FA, Decatur (Trippe 1873).

**Common Loon:** 1872-SP, Decatur/Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Magnolia Warbler:** 1872-SP, Mahaska (Trippe 1872).

**Greater Scaup:** 1874, Lime Creek (Anderson 1907).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** 1875-06-08, Black Hawk, Bendire, C.E., specimen at Smithsonian.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 1878-05-05-2, Traer, Tama, Allen, C.S., specimen at Smithsonian.

**Pine Grosbeak:** 1878-WI, northwestern IA (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 1880-03-30, Oskaloosa, Mahaska (Seevers 1882).

**Northern Shrike:** 1880-11-29, Burlington, Des Moines Bartsch, specimen at Smithsonian.

**Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch:** 1883-Feb, Sioux City, Woodbury (Talbot 1883).

**Caspian Tern:** 1884\_ca central IA (Anderson 1907).

**Cape May Warbler:** 1884\_ca (Cooke 1884).

**Evening Grosbeak:** 1884-02-07, Coralville, Johnson (Williams 1884).

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1884-05-11, Burlington, Des Moines (Peck 1896).

**Mississippi Kite:** 1884-07-01, Sioux City, Woodbury Talbot specimen at University of Iowa in DuMont (1933a).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1884-08-02, Sioux City, Woodbury (Anderson 1907).

**Redhead:** 1884-10-10, Des Moines, Polk (Cooke 1888).



**Cackling Goose:** 1885-04-07, *Sioux* (Anderson 1907).

**Prairie Warbler:** 1886-06-05, *Lee* (DuMont 1935a).

**Carolina Wren:** 1886-09-02, Burlington, *Des Moines Dwight Collection*, American Museum of National History in DuMont (1933a).

**Eskimo Curlew:** 1886-SP, northern IA (Hough 1901).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Tundra Swan:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**American Wigeon:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Northern Shoveler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Canvasback:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Lesser Scaup:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Bufflehead:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Common Goldeneye:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Common Merganser:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Ruddy Duck:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Horned Grebe:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Eared Grebe:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Least Bittern:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Snowy Egret:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Little Blue Heron:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Northern Goshawk:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Swainson's Hawk:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Yellow Rail:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**King Rail:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Common Gallinule:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Willet:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Marbled Godwit:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 1887\_ca *Floyd*, (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Sanderling:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Herring Gull:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Barn Owl:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Willow Flycatcher:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Bell's Vireo:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Sedge Wren:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Marsh Wren:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Gray-checked Thrush:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1887\_ca *Iowa City, Johnson* (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Mourning Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Northern Parula:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**White-throated Sparrow:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Summer Tanager:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Pine Siskin:** 1887\_ca (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Burrowing Owl:** 1890\_ near Hawarden, *Sioux* (Anderson 1907).

**Bewick's Wren:** 1890-04-06, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Kent 2002a).

**White-winged Scoter:** 1890-11-15, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Nutting 1895).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 1891\_ca Iowa City, *Johnson*, (Nutting 1894)

**White-faced Ibis:** 1891-04, near Rippey, *Greene* (Nutting 1893).

**Sabine's Gull:** 1891-10-15, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Bartsch 1899).

**Black Scoter:** 1891-10-31, *Lee* (Anderson 1907).

**Pine Warbler:** 1892-05-06, *Johnson* (Nutting 1893).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** 1892-05-14, Iowa City, *Johnson* (Keyes and Williams 1887).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 1892-05-21, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Bartsch 1898a).

**Prairie Falcon:** 1892-07-04, Honey Creek Lake (Anderson 1907).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1892-11-29, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Nutting 1895).

**Red-throated Loon:** 1893\_ca Hampton, *Franklin* (Shoemaker 1896).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1893-08-06, Burlington, *Des Moines* Bartsch specimen, University of Iowa in DuMont (1933a).

**Cinnamon Teal:** 1894-04-08, *Pottawattamie/Mills* (Anderson 1907).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1894-08-10, Burlington, *Des Moines* (Anderson 1907).

**Clark's Nutcracker:** 1894-09-23, near Boone, *Boone* (Nutting 1895).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** 1894-10-12, Iowa City, *Johnson* (Bartsch 1898b).

**King Eider:** 1894-11-10, near Keokuk, *Lee* (Praeger 1925).

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1895\_ca *Van Buren*, Walter G. Savage in Anderson (1907).

**Whimbrel:** 1895-05-25, near Crystal Lake, *Hancock* (Anderson 1907).

**Sprague's Pipit:** 1895-09-14, Lake Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (Anderson 1907).

**Harlequin Duck:** 1895-09-26, *Pottawattamie*, Trostler in Anderson (1907).

**Western Sandpiper:** 1895-10-15, Burlington, *Des Moines* Bartsch in Anderson (1907).

**Pacific Loon:** 1895-11-16, near Sabula, *Jackson* (DuMont 1934).

**Parasitic Jaeger:** 1896-10-06, near Keokuk, *Lee* (Praeger 1925).

**Thick-billed Murre:** 1896-12-16, near Atlantic, *Cass* (Brown 1897).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 1900\_ca *Black Hawk* (Farris et al. 1977).

**Brown Pelican:** 1900-July, north of Boone, *Boone* (Henning 1901).

**Common Eider:** 1901-11-01, *Woodbury* (DuMont 1934).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1902-04-30, Cedar Rapids, *Linn* (Anderson 1907).

**American Avocet:** 1902-06-02, *Sioux* (Anderson 1907). Note 1892, near Iowa City

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** 1903-August, near Burlington, *Des Moines* (Bartsch 1922).

**Gray Partridge:** 1905\_ca *Palo Alto* (DuMont 1933a).

**Long-tailed Jaeger:** 1907-06-15, near Lone Tree, *Johnson* (Anderson 1907).

**Dunlin:** 1913-10-06, Marshalltown, *Marshall* (Gabrielson 1914).

**Rock Pigeon:** 1917\_ca Iowa Falls, *Hardin* (Spiker 1933).

**European Starling:** 1922-12\_Lamoni, ca *Decatur* (DuMont 1945).

**Blue Grosbeak:** 1923-June, Cedar Falls, *Black Hawk* (DuMont 1933a).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1926-04-25, *Buchanan* (Pierce 1930).

**Western Grebe:** 1926-08-08, *Dickinson*, Roberts in DuMont (1933a).

**Spotted Towhee:** 1928-10-18, *Sioux City*, *Woodbury* (Youngworth 1932).

**Lewis's Woodpecker:** 1928-11-28, *Sioux City*, *Woodbury* (Bailey 1929).

**Lazuli Bunting:** 1929-05-20, *Sioux City*, *Woodbury* (Youngworth 1929).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1931-11-22, *Polk City*, *Polk* (DuMont 1933b).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** 1933-06-17, *Lee* (DuMont 1935b).

**Black Vulture:** 1933-09-17, *Dallas* (Dill 1933).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** 1933-10\_North Twin Lake, ca *Calhoun*, specimen in DuMont (1935a).

**Red Knot:** 1934-05-21, *Palo Alto* (Bennett 1935).

**Purple Gallinule:** 1937-05-13, Cedar Falls, *Black Hawk* (Dix 1937).

**Ruff:** 1940-05-10, *Louisa* (Dill 1941).

**Glaucous Gull:** 1941-03-27, Lake Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (Stiles 1941).

**Ross's Goose:** 1945-11-07, Clinton, *Clinton* (Brown 1971).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1946-05-18, near Belmond, *Wright* (Brown 1946).

**Townsend's Warbler:** 1950-05-07, Davenport, *Scott* (Feeney 1950).

**Sage Thrasher:** 1952-12-20, West Des Moines, *Polk* (Stiles 1953).

**Anhinga:** 1953-10-18, near Riverton, *Fremont* (Collins 1953).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** 1954-11-25, Clinton, *Clinton* (Youngworth 1961a).

**Common Raven:** 1956-10-07, Potter's Marsh, *Dickinson* (Sieh 1957).

**Say's Phoebe:** 1960-ca *Plymouth* (Bryant and Youngworth 1962).

**Roseate Spoonbill:** 1960-08-16, Union Slough NWR, *Kossuth* (Burgess 1960).

**Cattle Egret:** 1961-04-21, Little Wall L, *Hamilton* (Weller 1961).

**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** 1961-05-19, Sioux City, *Woodbury* (Youngworth 1961b).

**Mute Swan:** 1962-11, Mississippi River, ca *Muscatine* (Musgrove and Musgrove 1977).

**Varied Thrush:** 1964-12-04, Grinnell, *Poweshiek* (Brown 1965).

**Groove-billed Ani:** 1966-10-22, Cedar Rapids, *Linn* (Kent 1994).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** 1968-10-30, Manti Woods, *Fremont* (DeLong 1969).

**Western Tanager:** 1969-05-08, Storm Lake, *Buena Vista* (Crocker 1969).

**Pinyon Jay:** 1972-12-17, Shenandoah, *Page* (Zollars 1973).

**Ferruginous Hawk:** 1973-10-28, Shenandoah, *Page* (Wilson 1988).

**Great Gray Owl:** 1974-02-15, near Decorah, *Winneshiek* (Berg 1974).

**Alder Flycatcher:** 1974-05-15, Des Moines, *Polk* (Halmi 1974a).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper:** 1974-10-03, Coralville Res, *Johnson* (Halmi 1974b).

**Mountain Bluebird:** 1975-04-10, Cedar Falls, *Black Hawk* (Dowell 1975).

**Green-tailed Towhee:** 1975-05-05, Storm Lake, *Buena Vista* (Crocker 1975).

**Curve-billed Thrasher:** 1975-06-25, Spirit L, *Dickinson* (Wallace 1975).

**Ivory Gull:** 1975-12-20, Rathbun Res, *Appanoose* (Ayres 1976).

**Gray Jay:** 1976-10-30, near Decorah, *Winneshiek* (Koenig 1977).

**Boreal Chickadee:** 1976-11-17, Des Moines, *Polk* (Brown 1976).

**Pygmy Nuthatch:** 1977-01-26, Des Moines, *Polk* (Brooke 1977).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow:** 1977-05-03, Jamaica, *Guthrie* (Burns 1977).

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 1977-05-08, Zirbel Slough, *Cerro Gordo* (Barratt 1977).

**Wood Stork:** 1977-09-25, Mississippi River bottoms, *Louisa* (Dinsmore et al 1984).

**Hoary Redpoll:** 1978-01-22, Marion, *Linn* (Halmi 1978).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 1978-12-06, Lake Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (Green 1979).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 1978-12-23, Boyden, *Sioux* (Halmi 1979).

**Western Wood-Pewee:** 1979-06-21, Elm L, *Wright* (Schaufenbuel 1979).

**Brant:** 1980-11-02, De Soto NWR, *Harrison* (Dinsmore et al 1981).

**Northern Hawk Owl:** 1981-12-25, Waterloo, *Black Hawk* (Myers 1982).

**Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 1982-04-04, *Muscatine* (Kent 1982).

**House Finch:** 1982-06-03, *Pocahontas* (Kent 1982).

**Mew Gull:** 1982-12-19, Lock and Dam 14, *Scott* (Kent 1983a).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 1983-03-23, Forney Lake, *Fremont* (Silcock 1984).

**Clark's Grebe:** 1983-05-05, Cone M, *Louisa* (Kent 1983b).

**Vermilion Flycatcher:** 1983-05-08, near Sioux Center, *Sioux* (Van Dyk 1983).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** 1983-05-19, near Missouri River, *Mills*, (Silcock and Kent 1984).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 1984-06-01, Union Slough NWR, *Kossuth* (Kent 2001b).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 1984-12-05, Red Rock Res, *Marion* (Kent and Bowles 1985).

**Taiga Bean-Goose:** 1984-12-29, De Soto NWR, *Harrison* (Wilson 1985).

**Curlew Sandpiper:** 1985-05-10, Nashua, *Chickasaw* (Moore 1985).

**Thayer's Gull:** 1985-12-10, Red Rock Res, *Marion* (Bendorf 1986).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** 1986-07-10, St. Olaf, *Clayton* (Stone 1986).

**California Gull:** 1986-12-07, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Records Committee #86-21).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** 1987-03-04, West Branch, *Cedar* (Veal 1987).

**Ancient Murrelet:** 1987-10-28, Crystal L, *Hancock* (Hansen 1988).

**Snowy Plover:** 1988-05-06, Bays Branch, *Guthrie* (Dinsmore and Fix 1988).

**Pomarine Jaeger:** 1988-09-28, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore 1989).

**Red Phalarope:** 1988-09-30, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore and Engebretson 1989).

**Little Gull:** 1988-10-27, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore 1997a).

**Slaty-backed Gull:** 1989-02-12, Davenport, *Scott* (Fuller 1989).

**Tricolored Heron:** 1989-04-29, Cone M, *Louisa* (Kent 1991a).

**Laughing Gull:** 1989-09-09, *Des Moines* (Kent 1991b).

**Black-headed Gull:** 1989-11-02, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore 1993a).

**Iceland Gull:** 1991-03-13, Red Rock Res, *Marion* (Kent 1992).

**Fish Crow:** 1991-05-08, Big Sand Mound Preserve, *Louisa* (Kent 1996b).

**Garganey:** 1991-05-11, Port Neal, *Woodbury* (Kent 2001b).

**Common Ground-Dove:** 1991-10-19, Cedar Rapids, *Linn* (Fuller 1992).

**Long-billed Murrelet:** 1991-12-12, Red Rock Res, *Marion* (Dinsmore 1993b).

**Gyr Falcon:** 1992-03-27, *Kossuth* (Bolduan 1994).

**Glossy Ibis:** 1992-05-04, Union Slough NWR, *Kossuth* (Kenne 1994).

**Western Flycatcher:** 1992-11-14, Lake Ahquabi SP, *Warren* (Johnson 1994).

**Black-throated Sparrow:** 1993-03-16, Waterloo, *Black Hawk* (Kent 2001a).

**Bullock's Oriole:** 1993-05-12, Clemons, *Marshall* (Johnson 2014).

**Reddish Egret:** 1993-09-05, Colfax, *Jasper* (Schantz 1996).

**Ross's Gull:** 1993-10-31, Red Rock Res, *Marion* (Fuller 1994).

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck:** 1994-07-17, Goose L, *Clinton* (Dinsmore 2013).

**MacGillivray's Warbler:** 1995-06-02, Eagle City County P, *Hardin* (Kent 1996b).

**White Ibis:** 1995-09-05, Coralville Res, *Johnson* (Kent 1996a).

**Neotropic Cormorant:** 1996-05-04, Little River Recreation Area, *Decatur* (Dinsmore 1997b).

**White-winged Dove:** 1997-04-08, Ottumwa, *Wapello* (Kent 1997).

**Yellow-billed Loon:** 1999-04-18, Clear L, *Cerro Gordo* (Kent 2001b).

**Lesser Goldfinch:** 1999-08-05, Rockford, *Floyd* (Kent 2002b).

**Arctic Tern:** 1999-08-18, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1999).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** 1999-08-29, Grinnell, *Poweshiek* (Fuller 1999).

**Painted Bunting:** 2001-05-12, Arney Bend Wildlife Area, *Marshall* (Proescholdt 2001).

**Crested Caracara:** 2002-09-28, Buena Vista (Lampe 2002).

**Hooded Oriole:** 2003-05-25, Fairbank, *Buchanan* (Johnson 2013).

**Pacific Wren:** 2003-10-21, Ames, *Story* (S. Patterson 2013).

**Baird's Sparrow:** 2004-06-04, Cherokee, *Cherokee* (K. Patterson 2013).

**Boreal Owl:** 2004-11-12, Waterloo, *Black Hawk* (Garrett 2005).

**Royal Tern:** 2005-08-20, Rathbun Res, *Appanoose* (Dinsmore and Gilliam 2005).

**Acorn Woodpecker:** 2005-09-01, Ames, *Story* (Johnson and Zeltinger 2005).

**Green Violetear:** 2005-09-27, Grundy Center, *Grundy* (Neher and Neher 2005).

**Brambling:** 2006-01-01, Cedar Rapids, *Linn* (Scheible 2006).

**Mottled Duck:** 2006-07-07, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore and Brees 2007).

**Red-breasted Sapsucker:** 2006-12-04, Council Bluffs, *Pottawattamie* (Peters and Johnson 2007).

**Cave Swallow:** 2007-10-26, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore 2008a).

**Black-tailed Gull:** 2007-11-17, Saylorville Res, *Polk* (Dinsmore 2008b).

**Scott's Oriole:** 2008-04-07, Estherville, *Emmet* (Balch and Johnson 2008).

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher:** 2008-11-20, *Tama* (Gregory and Johnson 2008).

**Violet-green Swallow:** 2009-05-14, Hawarden, *Sioux* (Reinking and Hollinga 2009).

**Anna's Hummingbird:** 2010-10-31, Saylorville, *Polk* (Brees 2011).

**Broad-billed Hummingbird:** 2011-06-24, Charles City, *Floyd* (Montgomery and Hertzell 2011).

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# Field Reports—Fall 2013

*Paul Hertzel*



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## WEATHER

For much of Iowa, August began mild and dry and finished hot and dry. Drought conditions were especially intense in the south, with Keokuk and Mt. Pleasant recording no precipitation for the month, and many other locations recording less than a tenth of an inch. Burlington experienced its driest summer on record. Only the extreme western tier of counties and the northeast corner of the state enjoyed sufficient rains during August.

Above normal temperatures continued into September, which was the 19th warmest September in 141 years of record keeping. On the 9th, Donnellson and Keokuk both experienced 102°, the highest readings for so late in the year since 1955. A bit of welcome rain occurred across much of the state between the 14th and 19th, but the statewide precipitation

average from July 1 to September 30 was the second-lowest since record-keeping began.

Then, October, the great transition month, began to shake things up a bit. Temperatures reached 80° somewhere in the state on eight of the first eleven days, while hard freezes took over in the second half of the month. It was 88° in Sioux City on the 2nd, and 18° in Mount Ayr on the 25th. Two good rainfalls occurred in the first half of October, including severe conditions with at least six tornados on the 4th, and then the season's first snows fell in the north half of the state on the 22nd. The statewide average precipitation rose above normal for the first time since June.

November averaged 3° below normal, the coolest November since 2000. Below zero readings occurred as early as the 12th at the Spencer airport, the lowest readings for so early in the season since 1991. On the 27th, temperatures dropped to 5° below zero at Stanley. The month's largest precipitation event occurred on the 5th when snow fell over the NW and a cold rain fell elsewhere. Additional snow fell on the 11th, on the 21st, and again on the 25th.

## HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

The season opened warm and dry, and quiet. Although the shorebird migration was under way, it was unremarkable for the most part. The high count for Killdeer was 120.

The season total for American Golden-Plover was 3 birds, for Short-billed Dowitcher 4 birds, and for Wilson's Phalarope 4 birds. All 5 of the Sanderlings were single individuals at different locations on different days, so I guess, theoretically, they could be accounted for with one ambitious bird moving around the state. There actually was only one Upland Sandpiper found and no Ruddy Turnstones or Red Knots. The two best shorebird spots, Rice Lake in Worth County and Trumbull Lake in Clay County, were drawn down deliberately, but for reasons other than creating shorebird habitat. Both briefly held a few thousand migrants before the habitat gave out. Perhaps the most interesting early fall shorebird story had nothing to do with migration; rather, it was the discovery of a young Black-necked Stilt in the company of adults in Hardin County. And this was on the heels of Iowa's first American Avocet nesting record in June.

The rest of the migration was also slow to materialize. In his summer report, Jim Dinsmore noted "No migrant songbirds had been found in Iowa as of the end of July." The calm continued into August with the earliest migrant warbler a single Tennessee on 12 August in Howard County. Again, the noteworthy events were more about late nestings. Larry Reis came across four recently fledged Clay-colored Sparrows on 10 August, a pair of juvenile Mississippi Kites fell from a Des Moines nest on 17 August, and Erwin Klaas found a late Dickcissel nest with four young on 26 August.

After August, in the east, things finally picked up with a trickle of reports of expected migrants. But many were late, with 13 species arriving more than a week beyond their 20-year median arrival dates, including Blue-headed Vireo (15 days), Golden-crowned Kinglet (11 days), Northern Waterthrush (15 days), Golden-winged Warbler (11 days), and Nashville Warbler (11 days). In the far west, there were very few reports at all, and warblers there went almost undetected. Across the state, this theme of late arrivals together with lingering breeders continued. In September, Doug Harr found a Sedge Wren feeding three recently fledged young. Later, Blue-winged Warbler and Prothonotary Warbler were found on 3rd-latest dates. In October, Common Nighthawk, Nelson's Sparrow and Bobolink all lingered to 3rd-latest dates, a Black Tern was found on a 2nd-latest date, and a Warbling Vireo was found on a record late date. And those are all species that summer here. A Mourning Warbler found its way to Iowa, and then remained to a 3rd-latest date, a wandering Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found on a 2nd-latest date, and a Tennessee Warbler stayed to a record late date, driven out only by winter-like threats in November.

Strangely, all three migrant thrushes arrived on the early side of their median arrival dates, about the only group to do so. Hermit Thrush was 5 days early, Swainson's Thrush 4 days early, and Gray-cheeked Thrush 3 days early. Arriving on the late side was more the rule this year, including those species that typically follow the early neotropical migration. This included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Pipit, White-throated Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting. Few species seemed in a hurry to get here, and for the third time in the last five years, no crossbills or redpolls were recorded at all.

In October, the typically dramatic swings in the weather began early with a widespread event involving heavy rains that dominated the first week. An F4 tornado was recorded in Woodbury County. On the 6th, the conditions were turbulent enough to get the attention of many thousands of birds. Mark Orsag, senior hawk watcher at Hitchcock NC wrote, "As

the winds whipped and the misting and at times quite hard rain fell, kettle after kettle of raptors popped out of the gloom and murk.” He and Ryan Evans and Jim Sinclair tallied 1825 Swainson’s Hawks, an enormous single-day total, plus many other birds including at least 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants moving down the Missouri River Valley. Over the next four days, Jerry Toll’s banding operation captured 56 accipiters, turning the corner from what had been a dismal season to a record-setting one. By season’s end the hawk watch had posted record totals for Osprey, Cooper’s Hawk, and Broad-winged Hawk, and 2nd-best totals for Swainson’s Hawks and Peregrine Falcon. Both hawk watches, at Hitchcock NC in Pottawattamie County and Grammer Grove in Marshall County, had 2nd-best season totals for raptors.

At the end of the third week in October, the season’s first significant snow fell across the northern third of the state, bringing ahead of it the first migrant geese and smaller numbers of waterfowl. A few days later, Jim Sinclair estimated 20,000 American Robins at Lake Ahquabi in Warren County. Then, the really large waterfowl movements began in early November with another snow/rain event starting on the 5th. The following day, Doug Harr wrote, “In this afternoon’s rain and fog I found the largest flotilla of waterfowl I’ve ever personally witnessed on Saylorville Lake in 12 years of living nearby in central Iowa.” He estimated 150,000–200,000 birds visible from the top of the dam, and many thousands more farther north out of view. The quiet, lazy migration of 2013 was long over and the late-season, weather-driven movements were in full swing. In mid-month, the huge waterfowl concentrations peaked along the Mississippi River, and about the same time, the bottom dropped out of the temperature readings. And just like that, it was winter.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

Three accidental species occurred this fall including at least one Whooping Crane from the remnant Canadian population, a juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and a Rufous Hummingbird that may have been a returning individual from last season. In addition, there were three casual species found including Neotropic Cormorant, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Little Gull. The records committee also reviewed and accepted two Ferruginous Hawk records and a Laughing Gull.

## SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. \* = documented. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: A = area, L = lake, M = marsh, m.ob. = many observers, NA = nature area, NM = National Monument, NWR = national wildlife refuge, P = park, R = river, RA = recreation area, Res = reservoir, SF = state forest, Sl = slough, SOAR = Saving Our Avian Resources, SP = state park, US-NWR = Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, WPA = waterfowl production area, WA = wildlife area.

### **BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK.**

Three birds of unknown origin spent the latter half of August on Lake Ponderosa *Poweshiek* sometimes feeding with local Mallards on food

set out by homeowners. The birds were photographed, and seen by many, but their tame behavior left some Records Committee members skeptical of the birds’ wildness.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** An inexplicable stray was near Keokuk *Lee* on 7 Sep (CRE). The first migrant flocks were in the west with 70 on 21 Oct at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO) and 59 on 29 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). The most was an estimated 1500 in foggy conditions at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Nov (DCH). Otherwise, high counts were small, with 245 on 6 Nov in Des Moines (JB) and 118 on 20 Nov at De Soto. Last was 1 still at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 30 Nov (WO).

**Snow Goose:** From 1–3 were found at seven scattered sites as early as 6 Aug (GLV, MP, RG, MP, JF). The first migrant flocks were 100 on 18 Oct at Auldon Bar *Fremont* (ALD) and 387 overhead at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* on 2 Nov (MO). A huge flock conservatively estimated to contain 110,000 individuals appeared in the rain and fog at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Nov, and that was just the birds visible in the first mile from the dam (DCH). In the far west, where such numbers are more typical, the high count was a mere 15,000 on 22 Nov also at Hitchcock (MO).

**Ross's Goose:** The first two were found in Mason City on 21 Oct (CJF, RG), followed by 3 at Hitchcock *Pottawattamie* 31 Oct (MO), 1 at Saylorville *Polk* 3 Nov (AB), 1 at Ada Hayden P *Story* 8 Nov (WO), and 2 more at Saylorville 23 Nov (AB).

**Cackling Goose:** By mid-October there were several hundred at scattered sites around Mason City, mixed in with flocks of both *B.c. interior* and resident *B.c. maxima* Canada Geese (PH). Most were gone by mid-Nov. There were only five reports away from there, with the most at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Nov as a significant portion of a mixed Canada/Cackling flock of perhaps 25,000 individuals (DCH).

**Mute Swan:** One was at Green Island *Jackson* 18–22 Aug (DTh, BSc), two oth-

ers moved around the Hawkeye/Coralville area *Johnson* 23 Sep–24 Nov (JF, LGR), and another was at Sand Lake WA *Marshall* 24 Nov (MP).

**Trumpeter Swan:** From 1–9 including many obvious family groups were reported from *Appanoose*, *Boone*, *Clinton*, *Des Moines*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Marshall*, *Osceola*, *Story*, and *Worth*.

**Tundra Swan:** The first 30 were counted 16 Oct along the Mississippi R at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS). By 14 Nov, there were 8450 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS), and the peak was 15,060 on 22 Nov at Pool 13 with 2500 more still at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (DC). At the close of the season, there were still 1085 at Pool 13.

**Wood Duck:** Some high counts were 320 on 18 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS) and 200 on 28 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS). The last was 1 on 23 Nov at Henderson Woods *Dickinson* (LAS).

**Gadwall:** The first concentration was 100 on 24 Sep at Pool 9 *Allamakee*, which built to 2120 by 8 Oct (USFWS). The peak along the river was 14,460 on 7 Nov at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS). Away from the river, 1800 were counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Oct (RLC) where the last 10 were still present 25 Nov (RLC).

**American Wigeon:** The 400 on the Mississippi R at Pool 13 *Clinton* 8 Oct (USFWS) was the first noteworthy group. Another 30 were counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Oct (RLC). Peaks were 3965 on 14 Nov at Pool 9 *Allamakee* and 4495 there 22 Nov (USFWS).

**American Black Duck:** All: 5 on 22 Nov at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS), 1 on 23 Nov at Polk City WA *Polk* (JB), and 1–3 at Saylorville Res *Polk* after 23 Nov (AB, JG, RLC).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Some early flocks were 25 at Jensen M *Madison* on 29 Aug (JS)

and 400 at Union Slough NWR Kossuth on 31 Aug (JB). Peaked in the east on 16 Oct with 625 at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS) and in the west on 18 Oct with 2551 at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). Last was 1 on 4 Nov at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Northern Shoveler:** The high count was 1550 on 28 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS). Another 1000 were estimated on 6 Nov in the rain and fog at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH).

**Northern Pintail:** The first group reported was 46 on 13 Sep in *Jackson* (KMc). By 8 Oct there were 1650 just south of there at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS), and in the west, the peak was similar at 1608 on 29 Oct at De Soto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). In early Nov, about 1000 were part of mixed flock at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH), and in late Nov singles were still there (AB) and at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Green-winged Teal:** First reported 8 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS) and 9 Oct at Montrose *Lee* (JJD). A huge peak of 13560 was counted 7 Nov at Pool 13 by USFWS aerial survey. In the west, the peak was 8712 on 14 Nov at De Soto NWR *Harrison* where there were still 680 on 27 Nov (USFWS).

**Canvasback:** First reported on 16 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS) and 17 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP, BKP). The peak along the Mississippi R was 139,694 on 14 Nov at Pool 13 (USFWS).

**Redhead:** Small groups of 20 were first reported 20 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC) and 22 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). As many as 500 were present on 6 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* as part of a huge movement of migrants in the rain (DCH). Other high counts were 200 at Saylorville 27 Oct (AB) and another 200 at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS); 4 were still at Saylorville 25 Nov (RLC).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The first large group was 1200 on 8 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton*, where the peak count by aerial survey was 21,850 on 7 Nov (USFWS); 7 were still on the river in *Muscatine* 24 Nov (KMc).

**Greater Scaup:** All: 10 on 2 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), 1 on 28 Nov at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc), and 2 on 30 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

**Lesser Scaup:** The 100 on 16 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* was the first migrant flock (USFWS). On 6 Nov, an enormous flotilla of migrants at Saylorville Res *Polk* was estimated to contain 20,000 scaup (DCH). A week later, on 14 Nov, the season peak of 47,620 was counted by aerial survey at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS).

**Surf Scoter:** There were 14 individuals at five locations: 1 on 16 Oct at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF), 1 juv on 22 Oct at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), up to 6 juvs at a time at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Oct–4 Nov (SJD), 3 juvs on 10 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 1 juv on 11–24 Nov at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF, BSc).

**White-winged Scoter:** The only one was at Coralville L *Johnson* 22 Nov (JF).

**Black Scoter:** The first was 1 on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) followed by 6 on 5 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF). There were eight distinct reports involving 19 individuals at six locations including two photographed at Dubuque (David Shealer), possibly a first county record. Also recorded at Coralville L *Johnson* and Pool 13 *Clinton* (JF), and at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

**Long-tailed Duck:** Three reports of singles: 1 on 16 Nov at North Liberty *Johnson* (JF), a juv on 24–30 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC, SJD), and 1 at a gravel pit in *Johnson* on 30 Nov (JLF).

**Bufflehead:** The first was alone at Sand Lake WA *Marshall* on 7 Oct (MP). Peaked along the Mississippi R in the vicinity of

Pool 9 *Allamakee* on 14 Nov when 6325 were counted by aerial survey (USFWS). In the far west, BFH estimated 300 at Brown's L *Woodbury* on 22 Nov, the largest single flock he can remember.

**Common Goldeneye:** The first migrant flock was found on the second-earliest date of 8 Oct when 100 were counted at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS). By mid Nov, there were 1745 at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS), and the peak count of 8200 on 27 Nov at Pool 13 may be the largest yet recorded.

**Hooded Merganser:** Singles and family groups were widely reported until the first migrant gathering of 60 on 16 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC). The high count along the Mississippi R was 1675 on 27 Nov at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS).

**Common Merganser:** A lone female found at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Aug and re-located 20 Aug probably summered in the area (DTh, RLC). The first migrants were reported on time 3 Nov, also at Saylorville (AB), and the high count was 700 on 30 Nov at Saylorville (AB).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The first were 11 on 11 Nov at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BC). All others were at Saylorville Res *Polk* starting with 36 on 16 Nov (AB, RLC).

**Ruddy Duck:** The first large raft was estimated at 1000 on 8 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* where a peak of 8050 was recorded 13 Oct (USFWS). Away from the river, up to 900 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19–26 Oct (AB, RLC), and 700 were at L *Icaria Adams* 26 Oct (KDy). One was still at Saylorville 25 Nov (RLC).

**Northern Bobwhite:** The 27 on 3 Aug in rural *Lucas* and 12 on 22 Sep at Sylvan Runkle *Monona* were encouraging finds (AB). Also found in *Lee*, *Appanoose*, *Dallas*, *Fremont* and *Boone*, all in the southern half

of the state (DCH, RLC, SJD, ALD). Iowa DNR August roadside surveys detected birds just below the ten-year average. A calling bird 3 Aug in *Palo Alto* was far out of range (LAS).

**Gray Partridge:** In the north, partridge were found three times in *Cerro Gordo* (PH, RG), once in *Kossuth* (MCK), and once in *Worth* (RG) for a total of 19 birds. Also reported in central Iowa in *Marshall* (MP), *Hardin* (TSS) and *Story* (WO). Iowa DNR August roadside surveys indicated the population is down slightly from 2012, undoubtedly due to the wettest spring on record, and the second-coldest in the last 125 years.

**Ruffed Grouse:** No reports.

**Red-throated Loon:** Reports of a juv at Red Rock Res *Marion* spanned 20 Oct–30 Nov, possibly all the same bird (JG, JF, MP, SJD); another juv was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 28 Oct–3 Nov (RLC, SJD, AB) and an adult was there 21 Nov (SJD); an adult was at Ada Hayden P *Story* 8 Nov (\*SJD, WO); and a juv was at Rathbun L *Appanoose* 30 Nov (SJD).

**Pacific Loon:** A juv was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26–31 Oct (AB, JB, SJD, DTh); another was at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 1 Nov (TSt); one was at Rathbun L *Appanoose* 10 Nov (RLC); and a juv was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Nov (SJD).

**Common Loon:** The first two were at Coralville L *Johnson* 9 Oct (JF). High counts were small with 43 on 10 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RG) and 44 on 11 Nov at Pleasant Creek *Linn* (BC).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** Some high counts were 70 on 6 Oct at Bank Swallow Bend Warren (JS) and up to 183 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20–22 Oct (AB, RLC). Fourteen were still at Saylorville 25 Nov (RLC).

**Horned Grebe:** The first few were 2 on 5 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) fol-



*Western Grebe, Bettendorf, Scott, 24 October 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*American White Pelican, Saylorville Res, Polk, 24 September 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*

lowed by 2 on 7 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). The most was a mere 26 on 10 Nov at Red Rock Res Marion (AB). Also reported in small numbers in Appanoose, Dickinson, Polk and Pottawattamie.

**Red-necked Grebe:** The only report was 1 on 15 Aug at Clear L Cerro Gordo (RG).

**Eared Grebe:** One was at Coralville L Johnson 9 Oct (JF), 7 were at L Icaria Adams on 26 Oct (KDY), and 1 was at Saylorville Res Polk 27 Oct (AB).

**Western Grebe:** Up to 4 were at Red Rock Res Marion 20–31 Oct (JG, JF, TNJ, RLC), 1 was at Bettendorf 23, 24 Oct (JF, JLF), 3 were at Spirit L Dickinson 2 Nov (LAS), singles were at Saylorville Res Polk and Pool 13 Clinton on 9 Nov (AB, JB, DP), another was at Rathbun L Appanoose 10 Nov (TNJ), and 2 were at Clear L Cerro Gordo on 10 Nov (RG).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** There were still 200 in Clinton 12 Oct (WWH) following nesting on spoil islands in the Mississippi R (Dinsmore 2013), and 110 were still in Marion 31 Oct (RLC) following nesting at Pinchey Bottoms (Dinsmore 2013). The most, however, was 10,000+ flying in a steady stream along the Missouri R on a rainy 6 Oct, counted through the “gloom

and the murk” from the watch tower at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO). One was still at Saylorville Res Polk 25 Nov (RLC).

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT:** At least one was in a group of four cormorants airborne over a marsh near Clinton Clinton on 12 Oct (\*RIC, \*JMC).

**American White Pelican:** High counts in the west were 3000 on 12 Sep at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO) and 1094 on 26 Sep at De Soto NWR Harrison (USFWS). In central Iowa, the most was 3900 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res Polk (BE).

**American Bittern:** One was at Green Island Jackson 18 Aug (DTh), another was at Bank Swallow Bend Warren 17 Oct (JS), and the last was at Union Hills Cerro Gordo 15 Nov (RG).

**Least Bittern:** The only report was 1 on 22 Aug at Green Island Jackson (BSc).

**Great Blue Heron:** The most was 94 on 21 Aug at Pinchey Bottoms Marion (DTh, RLC).

**Great Egret:** At least 185 gathered at Green Island Jackson in late Aug (BSc, DTh). The last was 1 on 3 Nov in Des Moines (SCS).

**Snowy Egret:** Four were at L Manawa Pottawattamie 11 Sep (LJP, BKP). The only



other one was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 3 Oct (SJD-photo).

**Cattle Egret:** All: 29 were at Ruthven *Palo Alto* 24 Aug (JN), 7 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 11 Sep (LJP, BKP), 5 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Sep (TSt), and 5 near Decatur City *Decatur* 5 Nov (CJF).

**Green Heron:** The last was 1 on 23 Oct at Mason City (CJF).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: up to 3 at a time at Cedar L and another NW of there in *Linn* 1 Aug–5 Sep (JF, MBa), 1 at Beeds L *Franklin* 26 Aug (BL), 1 overhead at Mason City 3 Oct (PH), 1 or 2 immatures at Ada Hayden P *Story* 4–22 Oct (WO), 1 at Princeton M *Scott* 13 Oct (KMc), and a juv at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 26 Oct (TSt).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** A juvenile was at Banner WA *Warren* 11 Aug (JS) and another was at Riverton *Fremont* 10 Sep (ALD).

**White-faced Ibis:** The last two, both identified to this species by the red iris, were found 2 Sep, one at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV) and the other at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

**Plegadis species:** There were six reports of *Plegadis* individuals not identifiable to species: different birds at Anderson L *Hamilton* 15 Sep and 14 Oct (SJD), 1 on 6 Oct at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO), 1 at Green Island *Jackson* 10, 11 Oct (TMH, SJD, JB, JG), 1 at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* 10 Oct (TSS-photo), 1 at L Anita SP *Cass* 19 Oct (JJD, SJD), 1 on 19 Oct at Zirbel Slough *Cerro Gordo* (Fred Heinz fide SJD).

**Turkey Vulture:** The season total of 543 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* was a record by more than 100 (MP). The high count was 339 on 8 Oct at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO). The last was 1 on 7 Nov at Coralville *Johnson* (LGR).

**Osprey:** The 211 counted at Hitch-

cock NA *Pottawattamie* was a season record total (MO). The most was 30 on 18 Sep at Hitchcock. The last two were 1 on 5 Nov on the Winnebago R *Cerro Gordo* (BL) and 1 on 8 Nov in *Clinton* (KMc).

**Mississippi Kite:** One of two nestlings that fell from a Des Moines nest 17 Aug was taken to SOAR for care (Kay Neumann fide SJD). There were five other *Polk* reports from Greenwood Park, West Des Moines, Terra Park and Ashworth Park (LGR, RLC, JG, DP). Away from *Polk*, 1 was found 6 Sep in *Black Hawk* (TSt) and another on 8 Sep at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* was the only one for the season there (MO) and shared the last date with 1 overhead in Des Moines (BE).

**Bald Eagle:** The 532 counted at Grammer Grover *Marshall* was a record season total by 41 (MO); 137 were counted there on 23 Nov. On 22 Nov, 139 were reported at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (USFWS) and on 24 Nov 57 were gathered at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc).

**Northern Harrier:** After seven summer reports (Dinsmore 2013), widespread observations of isolated birds continued to be reported in August, September, and October. At the Hitchcock NA hawk watch *Pottawattamie*, nearly 70% of the season's 236 sightings occurred in October (MO). The last was 1 at Hitchcock 25 Nov (MO).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The first was spotted 5 Sep at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO). October 9 was the big day at both hawk watches, with 198 counted at Hitchcock and 110 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MO, MP).

**Cooper's Hawk:** The season total of 376 at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* smashed the previous record of 277 (MO). The total at Grammer Grove *Marshall* was a modest 77 (MP).



*Red-tailed Hawk, Red Rock Res, Marion, 30 November 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*



*Broad-winged Hawk (dark morph), Polk City, Polk, 5 October 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Northern Goshawk:** The first was 1 on 9 Oct at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* where the season total of 5 was right at the average (MO). Elsewhere, a juv was photographed on 18 Oct in Janesville *Bremer* (JTM), another juv on 26 Oct in Warren allowed JS to approach within about 20 feet, and 1 was near Gladbrook *Tama* 31 Oct (MP).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Reported from Appanoose, Decatur, Lee, Linn, Marion, Marshall, Polk, *Pottawattamie* and Warren. The most was 3 on 13 Sep at Sedan *Appanoose* (TNJ, RLC).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** Reports of kettles suddenly appeared on the listserv on 13, 14 Sep. At Hitchcock NA in *Pottawattamie*, the first big count was 162 on 13 Sep (MO). High counts were 403 on 18 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP) and 936 on 28 Sep at Hitchcock where the season total of 1761 was a record (MO). Smaller kettles were reported 22 Sep–6 Oct in *Cerro Gordo*, *Kossuth*, *Johnson* and *Warren* (PH, MCK, JF,

JS). The last 3 were at Hitchcock on 13 Oct (MO).

**Swainson's Hawk:** A spectacular 2-day flight of 2966 took place at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* 6, 7 Oct helping push the season total of 3529 to the second-highest there in 12 years of operation and also the most abundant raptor of the season (MO). Away from this hotspot, singles were in *Sioux* on 13 Aug (LAS), *Dallas* on 21 Sep (KG), *Polk* on 7 Oct (JB), and the last 1 on 29 Oct in *Boone* (DCH).

**FERRUGINOUS HAWK:** On 24 Oct, two were spotted from the hawk watch tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie*. The first was a late-morning juvenile (\*JSc) and the second a mid-afternoon light morph adult (\*JSc).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The first, on 15 Sep at Center Lake WPA *Dickinson* (LAS), was fourth-earliest. The next two were the only October reports, on the 23rd in *Mills* (ALD) and on the 24th at Hitchcock



*Common Gallinule, Green Island WA, Jackson, 22 August 2013. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

NA *Pottawattamie* (MO). There followed a steady stream of nine November reports from seven counties.

**Golden Eagle:** In the west, the season total of 19 at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* was right at the 12-year average (MO). Elsewhere there were six reports of individual birds: an adult on 22 Sep at Sylvan Runkle SP *Monona* (AB), 1 on 21 Oct at Grammer Grove *Marshall* and another there on 9 Nov (MP), 1 on 1 Nov at Silver L *Worth* (RG), an adult on 4 Nov at Pleasant Creek *Linn* (BSc), and 1 on 17 Nov at Wickiup *Linn* (JF).

**Yellow Rail:** On 3 Oct, CK flushed 3 while harvesting prairie seed in *Marshall*. Singles were also reported 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC), 7 Oct at Blackhawk Bottoms *Des Moines* (JWR, CF), and 12 Oct at Horseshoe Bend *Louisa* (JLF).

**Virginia Rail:** The only report was 2 on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC).

**Sora:** Some high counts were 23 on

6 Sep at Hendrickson M *Story* (TMH) and 18 on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC). The last was 1 on 22 Oct at Errington M *Polk* (RLC).

**Common Gallinule:** All: 3 or 4 juvs on 18–22 Aug at Green Island *Jackson* (DTh, BSc) and 1 on 1 Sep at Swan L SP *Carroll* (MT).

**American Coot:** The high count was an estimate of 87,600 on 28 Oct at Pool 13 *Clinton* (USFWS).

**Sandhill Crane:** Reported from 12 locations in 11 counties. The largest concentration was at Otter Creek M *Tama*, where 24 found in mid-Sep grew to as many as 95 by mid-Nov (MP, JF, AB, DTh). Another noteworthy group was 10 at Cone M *Louisa* 10–12 Oct (JJD, JLF). The group at Otter Creek M was the last, lingering through 15 Nov (JF).

**WHOOPIING CRANE:** A bird from the Wood Buffalo National Park (Alberta) flock wearing a satellite transmitter spent the night of 9 Nov in *Lucas* and departed early on the 10th passing through eastern *Decatur* (Aaron T. Pearse *vide* SJD). There were no live sightings of this bird, which presumably was not traveling alone. Elsewhere, a single color-banded adult, evidently from the Wisconsin flock, was observed 8 Nov at Good Neighbor Marsh *Winnebago* (KTM).

**Black-necked Stilt:** Two adults and a fledgling were near Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* 7–10 Aug (\*BC, SJD, JG).

**American Avocet:** Three were at Trumbull L *Clay* 15–18 Aug (ET, LAS) following Iowa's first nesting record there in June (Dinsmore 2013). Avocets were found at 13 sites statewide, including 28 on 3 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 20 on 17 Oct at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF), and 28 on 20 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF, JG). Also found in *Audubon*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Emmet*,



*Killdeer, Carney M, Polk, 15 September 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



*Spotted Sandpiper, Carney M, Polk, 2 September 1013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*

*Johnson, Story, Tama and Woodbury (m.ob).* The last was 1 on 9 Nov at Saylorville (AB).

**Black-bellied Plover:** All: 1–3 were at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 4, 5 Aug (JF), 9 at Trumbull L *Clay* 15–18 Aug (ET, LAS), and 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29 Sep (TSt).

**American Golden-Plover:** All: 1 was at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 7 Aug (JF) and 2 at Otter Creek M *Tama* 15 Nov (JF).

**Semipalmated Plover:** There were more reported in the month of July (Din-smore 2013) than in the entire fall season, which consisted of 7 individuals, the last of which was at Pintail M *Hardin* on 15 Sep (MP).

**Piping Plover:** There were two reports, both on 28 Aug. One was at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DTh) and the other at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF).

**Killdeer:** The most was a mere 120 on 4 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The last was 1 on 26 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** There were six reports of 1 or 2 with the last few on 21 Sep at Goose L *Clinton* (KMc) and Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** There were eleven reports of 1–9 birds ending with 1 at Ada Hayden P *Story* and 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion*, both on 10 Nov (WO, AB).

**Willet:** Except for 3 on 11 Sep at Red Rock *Marion* (JF), all reports were of single birds, ending with 1 on 15 Sep at Ingham-High Complex *Emmet* (LAS).

**Lesser Yellowlegs.** The most was about 300 on 31 Aug at Rice L *Worth* (PH). Last were 3 on 23 Oct at Heron Bend *Lee* (JWR).

**Upland Sandpiper:** The only report was 1 on 13 Aug at Pintail M *Hardin* (CJL).

**Hudsonian Godwit:** On 22 Aug, 66 were found resting in shallow water near the Amtrak station at Fort Madison *Lee* (JWR-details), the largest fall concentration on record. Fall Hudsonian Godwits are rare

in the Midwest, with most birds apparently staging farther north and then overflying Iowa, but mid-sized, isolated flocks are not unprecedented. In 1999, 28 birds of a larger group that sought refuge on a rainy Des Moines runway and were killed by an airplane (Powers and Dinsmore 2010). Elsewhere this season, 2 were found 4 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF).

**Marbled Godwit:** One was at Jester Park *Polk* 1 Aug (MP-details).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** No reports.

**Red Knot:** No reports.

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER:** A juvenile was found by Jim Forde 10 Nov at Otter Creek M *Tama* and remained through 12 Nov (\*JF, \*AB, \*TMH, \*CRE, \*SJD). This is the fifth accepted record for this species and the fourth in the fall season.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** All reports were less than 25 birds except for the high count of 120 on 31 Aug at Rice L *Worth* (PH). Also reported from *Hardin*, *Linn*, *Polk* and *Story* with the last 1 on 17 Oct at Wickiup *Linn* (JF).

**Sanderling:** Five reports of single birds is the weakest fall presence I can find in the modern record: 1 on 13–22 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (BSc, JF), 1 on 15 Sep at Pintail M *Hardin* (MP), 1 on 20 Sep at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (JG), 1 on 7 Oct at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF), and 1 on 31 Oct at Sugar Bottom *Johnson* (JF).

**Dunlin:** The only report was up to 12 on 11 Nov at Otter Creek M in the company of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (MP, AB).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The most was about 80 at Rice Lake *Worth* 6 Aug (PH). Also reported from *Hardin*, *Lee*, *Polk* and *Poweshiek* (MP, RLC, JWR, JLF). The last 5 were found 18 Nov at Heron Bend *Lee* (JWR, JLF).

**Least Sandpiper:** As usual, the first migrants appeared in late summer (Dinsmore 2013), then peaked in August with

350 at Rice Lake *Worth* on 17 Aug (PH) and another 50 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 27 Aug (RLC). The last bird was at Saylorville on 30 Oct (RLC).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Three individuals of this rare fall species were picked out of a mass of about 2000 shorebirds at Rice L *Worth* on 6 Aug (PH). Two singles were added on 5 Aug at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* and 15 Sep at Ingham-High *Emmet* (JF, LAS).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 1–6 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 1–4 Aug (JB, JG, AB), 4 at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* 2 Aug (JF), 4 at Blue Grass sod farm *Linn* 3 Aug (BSc), 4 at Trumbull L *Clay* 4 Aug (LAS), and 3 at Pinchey *Marion* 9 Aug (RLC).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** High counts were 1200 on 6 Aug at Rice L *Worth* (PH) and 3267 on 15 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (ET). Numbers dropped off quickly after August, but small groups continued to be found until the last 11 on 11 Nov at Otter Creek M *Tama* (AB).

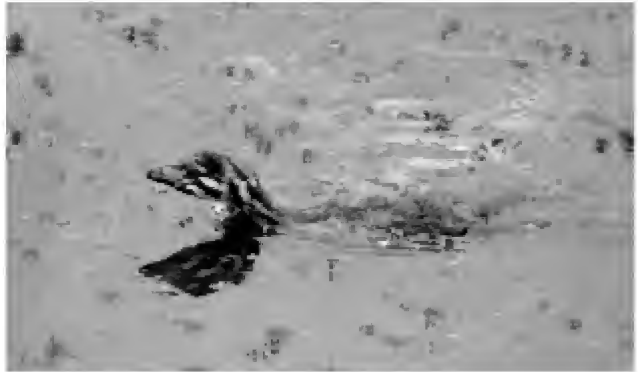
**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** The only significant numbers were at Rice Lake *Worth* with up to 500 in the period 6–17 Aug (PH). The last were 10 on 27 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Western Sandpiper:** All: 3 on 11 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC-details), 1 on 12 Aug at Fort Madison *Lee* (JWR-details), and 1 on 2 Sep in rural *Lee* (SJD-details).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Most passed through in late summer (Dinsmore 2013), but some lingered into August including 2 on 4 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and 2 on 15 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (ET).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first 3 were found at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* 6–19 Oct (MP, TSS) where 10 were still present 4 Nov (JLF). The high count was 44 on 23 Oct at Heron Bend *Lee* (JWR). The last 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 11 Nov (AB).

*Pied-billed Grebe, Green Island WA, Jackson, 22 August 2013. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Ring-billed Gull, Polk, 20 November 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



*Rufous Hummingbird, Davenport, Scott, 24 October 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Philadelphia Vireo, Spirit L, Dickinson, 21 September 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*

*Black-throated Green Warbler, Boone, 23 September 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Townsend's Solitaire, Boone, 22 September 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Fox Sparrow, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 17 October 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Spotted Towhee, Polk City WA, Polk, 17 October 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Franklin's Gull, Polk, 15 November 2013.  
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Bonaparte's Gull, Saylorville Res, Polk, 10  
November 2013. Photograph by John Bissell,  
Grimes, IA.*

**Wilson's Snipe:** The first 7 were found at Hendrickson M *Story* on 6 Sep (TMH). Steady reports continued through October with a high count of 17 on the 17th at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JS), and ending with 1 on 30 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**American Woodcock:** All: 2 on 26 Aug at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF), 1 on 7 Sep at Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE), and 1 on 22 Sep at Algona (MCK).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The only reports were 3 on 6 Aug at Rice L *Worth* (PH) and 1 on 26 Sep at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Reported from ten widely scattered locations in central and eastern Iowa. The first was 1 on 4 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JB). Some high counts were 8 at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* on 8 Aug (TSt), up to 8 at Hawk-eye WMA *Johnson* 15–31 Aug (JF), and 9 at Ingham-High *Emmet* on 27 Aug (LAS). The last was a record late juvenile on 2 Nov at Saylorville (\*SJD).

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE:** An adult was photographed at Saylorville Res *Polk* 9 Nov (\*AB, \*JB).

**Sabine's Gull:** The first was a high-flying gift to a hawk watcher at Grammer Grove *Marshall* on 21 Sep (MP). The second was found 23 Sep at Storm L *Buena Vista* (PE). Elsewhere, single juveniles were seen irregularly at Saylorville Res *Polk* through the month of October with at least one lingering until 5 Nov, a second-latest date (SJD, JF, TNJ, RLC, JG).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first 4 were found 19 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* where an influx of 200 occurred two days later (RLC) and grew to 400 by 27 Oct (AB). The peak was 500 on 2 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG). Also reported in smaller numbers from Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH) and Little River RA *Decatur* (JRL). The last 60 were still at Saylorville on 21 Nov (RLC).

**LITTLE GULL:** A juvenile was at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 16 Nov and stayed through 30 Nov (\*SJD-photo).

**LAUGHING GULL:** A juvenile was at Coralville L *Johnson* 8 Sep–5 Oct (\*JF, \*CRE, JLF).

**Franklin's Gull:** Numbers began to build in late Sep with 4000 at Saylorville



Res *Polk* (BE) and 5000 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). In October, 6000 were at Coralville Res *Johnson* on the 13th and another 6000 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* on the 20th (JJD). The peak was 12,000 on 21 Oct at Saylorville (RLC) after which numbers dropped quickly, although a few individuals remained there through the end of the season.

**Herring Gull:** The first report was of 2 in 2nd-basic plumage at Pinchey *Marion* on 9 Aug (RLC). It was followed by a subadult on 10 Sep along the Mississippi R in *Scott* (KMc) just south of a summer nesting at Clinton spoil islands (Dinsmore 2013).

**Thayer's Gull:** The first was a juvenile on 10 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, TSt). The median arrival date over the last 15 years 26 Oct. An adult was found at Red Rock 5 days later, on 15 Nov, 2 juveniles were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24–29 Nov (AB, DTh), and an adult with a juvenile was at Pool 14 *Scott* on 24 Nov (TSt).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** A 3rd-cycle individual was found at Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* on the record early date of 5 Aug (JF). Adults were at W Okoboji L *Dickinson* 9 Sep–2 Nov (ET, LAS), Sunset Pond *Des Moines* 3 Nov (JWR), and Pool 14 *Scott* 24 Nov (TSt). A subadult was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 18–25 Nov (AMJ, JF).

**Glaucous Gull:** A subadult was at Pool 14 *Scott* 24–30 Nov (TSt, JF) and another was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 29–30 Nov (DTh, RIA, PHA, AB).

**Least Tern:** Two were at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* 21 Aug (TSt) and another was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 23 Aug (SJD).

**Caspian Tern:** During August, from 1–12 were found in *Linn*, *Marshall*, *Story* and *Polk*. The high count was 27 on 1 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, RLC) and the last was 1 on 18 Sep at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Black Tern:** The last would have been the handful seen on 11, 12 Sep at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* and Saylorville Res *Polk* (LJP, BKP, JB), except for a very late individual found at Coralville L *Johnson* on 18 Oct (JF, JLF) [2nd-latest].

**Common Tern:** The first was 1 at Coralville L *Johnson* 8 Sep (CRE, JF). As many as 6 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 11 Sep (JF). Small numbers, 1–3, were also found 15 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB), 2–9 Oct at Coralville L (JF), and 18 Oct at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* (RG).

**ARCTIC TERN:** There were no Arctic Terns found this season, however, the date of first sighting of last fall's Arctic Tern should have been recorded as 22 Sep 2012, not 13 Sep 2012.

**Forster's Tern:** The most was 27 on 27 Aug at Jester P *Polk* (RLC). Among 7 at Barringer Sl *Clay* on 18 Aug was a juvenile (LAS). The last 3 were at Ada Hayden P *Story* 19 Oct (WO).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Among the six reports of this now widespread resident was 107 at a feed lot east of Port Neal *Woodbury* 19 Sep (GLV).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** From 1–3 were reported through late September from *Appanoose*, *Boone*, *Fremont*, *Jackson*, *Monroe* and *Van Buren* (RLC, WWH, ALD, TMH). The last, and only October report, was a very late individual near Fairfield *Jefferson* on 26 Oct (DCP).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The only two reports were 1 on 15 Aug at Ridgeway *Winnebiek* (LR), and 1 on 25 Aug at Holst SF *Boone* (DCH).

**Barn Owl:** One was confirmed in *Van Buren* 2 Sep (SJD) and at least 2 adults continued from summer through at least late Oct at a farm in *Ringgold* (JRL).

**Long-eared Owl:** The only report was 11 birds roosting communally in adjacent

trees on 24 Nov at Haynie Sl WA Mills (KDy), reminiscent of days gone by.

**Short-eared Owl:** All: 2 on 14 Nov at Red Rock Marion (Russ Benedict), 1 on 18 Nov at Neal Smith NWR Jasper (KVS), and 5 during 24–30 Nov in rural Fremont (KDy).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first was a capture on 16 Oct in the far south at the banding station at Mount Ayr WA Ring-gold where the total on the season was 12 individuals (JT). Hitchcock NC captures in Pottawattamie also began in October with 1 on the 24th, and finished with 25 birds, the lowest total since the project began (JT). Elsewhere, 1 was hit by a car 4 Nov near Waterloo Black Hawk and taken to rehab (Terese Evans). Two other singles were found 30 Nov at Grammer Grove Marshall and Moorehead P Ida (MP, DoP).

**Common Nighthawk:** That there were no reports of more than 100 is a little worrisome. In fact, the most was 71 I counted over my Mason City yard on 10 Sep. The last two were very late singles on 27 Oct at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO) and 29 Oct at Waterloo [3rd-latest] (TSt).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** Rarely detected in the fall, two were found in rural Lucas on 3 Aug (SJD), a 3rd-latest date.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** One was at Rathbun L Appa-noose 5 Sep (RLC) and another was in rural Cerro Gordo 23 Sep (RG).

**Chimney Swift:** On 6 September, "Swift Night Out", 300 were estimated on Grand Avenue in Des Moines (KVS) and 575 were at the old Story Hotel in Nevada Story (DF). The last few were 3 on 12 Oct at Princeton WA Clinton (JB) and 7 on 13 Oct in Cedar Rapids (BSc).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** The last two were females on 4 Oct in Coralville (LGR) and 12 Oct in Iowa City (EA).

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD:** A female that appeared at a home in Davenport 19 Oct is almost certainly the same individual documented at the same home last year (JoAnn Whitmore-photo, \*LGR, \*Cathy White, BSc). It departed on 15 Nov, a day earlier than it left last year (Karen Harris *vide* SJD). A male was found dead on 14 Nov in Cedar Rapids Linn (\*Dan Cerveney-photos).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Moved through in September with a peak of 150 on 11 Sep at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO). After September, the only reports were 10 on 12 Oct at Rock Creek M Clinton (WWH), 1 on 18 Nov at Bacon Creek P Woodbury (GLV), and 5 on 30 Nov at L Ahquabi SP Warren (JS).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Five were counted 10 Sep at Pleasant Creek WA Jackson (KMc). Also 1–3 reported from Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Hardin, Mitchell, Story and Wayne (CJF, WWH, MP, RG, WO, RLC).

**Northern Flicker:** A red-shafted bird was seen 21 Sep in Waterman TWP O'Brien (LAS).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Iowa City, Johnson, 16 September 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** Widely reported in eastern and central Iowa. The only report west of Warren was 1 on 16 Sep near Hamburg in *Fremont* (ALD).

**American Kestrel:** At Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 151 was twice that of 2012, and the most since 2005. This species has undergone a steady decline over the last decade.

**Merlin:** The first report was 1 on 10 Sep at Pine L SP *Hardin* (MP). It was followed by a steady stream of 19 reports from eastern and central Iowa, none from the west. However, the 61 at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* was about average over the last seven years (MO).

**Peregrine Falcon:** Fifteen on 27 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* helped hawk watchers to a second-highest season total of 96 (MO). Around the state, there were isolated reports of 1 or 2 from 8 scattered counties, half of which occurred in September.

**Prairie Falcon:** There were five reports of single birds: 10 Sep at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MO), 14 Sep at Mallard Marsh *Cerro Gordo* (Lowell Washburn *fide* CJF), 22

Sep at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD-photo), 12 Oct at Hitchcock (MO), and 16 Nov at Hitchcock (MO).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first two were in the south, 1 on 17 Aug in *Warren* (JS), and another on 22 Aug in *Appanoose* (RLC). Steady reports followed until the last on 19 Sep in the Loess Hills of *Monona* (GLV).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The last two were on 25 Sep at Big Mill Creek *Jackson* (TMH) and 26 Sep at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Three reports included 1 on 1 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 8 Sep at Chichaqua *Polk* (JB), and 2 on 11 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* (RLC).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Two were still at Bertram Reservation *Clay* on 3 Aug (LAS) after discovery in early July, individuals were still singing on 14 Aug at Backbone SP *Delaware* and Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* (BSc, JS), and the last was singing at Lake Ahquabi *Warren* on 4 Sep (JS).

**Alder Flycatcher:** The only report was one identified by voice at Pine L SP *Hardin* 16 Aug (MP).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The last was one at Sedan *Appanoose* on 5 Sep (RLC).

**Least Flycatcher:** Reported in small numbers through late September. The last two with details were 1 on 29 Sep at *Algona* (MCK) and a juvenile on 3 Oct at Jester P *Polk* (SJD-photo).

**Eastern Phoebe:** The last five were found 10–12 Oct in *Jackson, Delaware*, Linn and Scott (TMH, MP).

**Great Crested Fly-**



*Eastern Kingbird*, Boone, 2 September 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



*Blue-headed Vireo*, Spirit L, Dickinson, 21 September 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.

**catcher:** One at Grammer Grove Marshall on 25 Sep was the last (MP).

**Western Kingbird:** All: One on 25 Aug at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD), 1 on 27 Aug at Kindlespire P Clay (LAS), 2 on 2 Sep at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO), and 1 on 8 Sep at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD).

**Eastern Kingbird:** Moved through in late August with "hundreds on the day" in rural Clay on 27 Aug (LAS). The last few were found 13-15 Sep in Appanoose, Story and Hardin, respectively (RLC, WO, MP).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** Three showed up in October. One was north of Glidden Carroll on 12 Oct (CL), another was photographed along Highway G-45 Marion on 20 Oct (JG), and a third was at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie 27 Oct (MO) matching the 2nd-latest date.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The only reports were in the extreme south with 3 in Ringgold, 2 in Adams, and 2 in Taylor, all in the



*Red-eyed Vireo*, Boone, 3 September 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

first week of August (MP, CJL). September was a shrike-less month in Iowa.

**Northern Shrike:** The first was 1 on 23 Oct in Bluffton TWP Winneshiek (LR). Twelve reports of single birds followed through the end of the season, with only one from the west at Waterman TWP O'Brien 17 Nov (LAS).

**White-eyed Vireo:** At least 2 were at Shimek SF Lee 4-7 Sep (RLC, CRE) and two were still vocalizing at L Macbride Johnson on 14 Sep (BSc, WWH).

**Bell's Vireo:** Reported only in the southeast, in Appanoose, Lee and Jefferson and in the extreme west, in Fremont, Harrison and Woodbury (MP, TMH, RLC, GLV, DCP, ALD). The most was 5 on 1 Aug at Riverton Fremont (MP), and the last was 1 on 11 Sep at L Shawtee WMA Fremont (ALD).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** At Huron Island Des Moines, KMc counted 13 on 9 Sep. Reports continued until the last on 25 Sep in Jackson (TMH).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** The first migrant was found 12 Sep at Goose L Greene (TMH). Subsequent reports were statewide and almost daily until the last two, 1 foraging at eye level on 14 Oct at Shaver P Linn (BSc), and 1 at Willow Sl Mills on 17 Oct (ALD).

**Warbling Vireo:** The last two were on

22 Sep at Ada Hayden P Story (WO), and 3 Oct at Saylorville Polk (SJD-photo), which was record late by a day.

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first migrant and the only August report was 1 on 27 Aug at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). There were 19 very steady reports through the last on 29 Sep near Fairfield Jefferson (DCP).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** In the week 4–11 Sep, 79 individuals were reported in the east indicating the peak of migration (TMH, RLC, MP). Reports continued steadily through 2 on 25 Sep in Jackson (TMH). Then, a month later, a straggler was found 21 Oct north of Iowa City Johnson (JLF).

**Blue Jay:** Migrants moved into/through the state in late September and October. Some counts were 485 on 24 Sep at Algona and 260 there on 25 Sep (MCK), 350 in Coralville on 29 Sep (CRE), and 850 on 12 Oct at Hitchcock NA Pottawattamie (MO).

**Purple Martin:** Gathered and departed in August. The most was 70 near Bjorkboda M Story on 8 Aug (DCH), but MO remarked that the flight on 25 Aug at Hitchcock Pottawattamie was huge. The last was 1 on 2 Sep at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**Tree Swallow:** In the fall, this species can be found swarming over open water, but the largest count this season was over agricultural lands when 2500 were estimated on 11 Oct in Linn (TMH). The last 20 were noted on 11 Nov by MP at Otter Creek M Tama while searching for the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** Counts of 100 or more were reported in Sep in Fremont and Jackson (ALD, KMc). The very last were 4 on 14 Oct at Waterworks P Polk (AB).

**Bank Swallow:** Gone by mid-September with the last two on 18 Sep in Appanoose and 21 Sep in Clinton (RLC, KMc).



*Carolina Wren, Polk City WA, Polk, 17 October 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Cliff Swallow:** The last group was 20 on 12 Sep in Davis (RLC) and the last bird was 1 on 10 Oct at Buckshot M Appanoose (RLC) [4th-latest].

**Barn Swallow:** On 10 Oct, 90 were still at Buckshot M Appanoose (RLC). The last was 1 at Big Creek Polk 14 Oct (RLC).

**Tufted Titmouse:** As many as 26 were counted at Eagle Pt. Clinton on 21 Sep (KMc). Also reported from Appanoose, Boone, Dubuque and Jackson.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** First appeared on 13 Sep in Jackson and 14 Sep in Warren (KMc, JS).

**Brown Creeper:** Away from the eastern edge of Iowa, the only reports were singles on 2 Oct in Marshall (MP), 12 Oct in Mason City (CJF), 19 Oct at Waubonsie SP Fremont (ALD), and 5 Nov in Dickinson (KMc).

**Carolina Wren:** Many reports from eastern and central Iowa, including 14 counted 21 Sep at Eagle Pt. Clinton (KMc). In the far west, Fremont and Harrison were the only counties with reports (TMH, ALD).

**House Wren:** The last was 1 on 17 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**Winter Wren:** The two September reports were 1 on the 21st at Eagle Pt. *Clinton* (KMc) and 1 on the 25th at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). Otherwise, 14 birds were found in October and November.

**Sedge Wren:** The most was 24 on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC) and the last was 1 on 24 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Marsh Wren:** Up to 40 were at Sedan *Appanoose* on 4 Oct (RLC). There were no reports after 2 on 11 Oct at Buffalo Creek *Delaware* (THM).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** The last 4 were found 20–21 Sep in *Polk*, *Jefferson* and *Clinton* (RLC, DCP, KMc).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first was 1 on 5 Oct at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP) and the last was 1 on 12 Nov at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (JRL). No one reported more than a handful.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** TMH found the first 8 on 12 Sep in travels about *Calhoun* and *Greene*. Some high counts were 36 on 21 Sep at Eagle Pt. *Clinton* (KMc) and 27 on 13 Oct at Chipera Prairie *Winneshiek* (DC).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** One was 3rd-earliest on 22 Sep at Sparks Cemetery *Boone* (LGD-photo) and another was in rural *O'Brien* on 5 Nov (KMc).

**Veery:** The last two were on 11 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP) and 21 Sep at Eagle Pt. *Clinton* (KMc).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** Of five reports, the first was 2 on 4 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua P *Van Buren* (RLC) and the last two were on 20 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG) and 21 Sep in rural *Clinton* (KMc).

**Swainson's Thrush:** The first was at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 23 Aug (WO), followed by 2 on 1 Sep at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ) and another on 2 Sep at River Valley P *Story* (TMH). The most was

5 on 11 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* (RLC). The last was 1 on 12 Oct near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first was 1 on 24 Sep in rural *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Wood Thrush:** The last was a softly-calling bird on the evening of 28 Sep at Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK).

**American Robin:** JS estimated 20,000 at Lake Ahquabi *Warren* on 27 Oct.

**Gray Catbird:** The last was 1 on 28 Oct in Ames (WO).

**Northern Mockingbird:** The only report was 2 seen regularly in Aug near the *Adams/Taylor* county line (CJL).

**American Pipit:** The first 2 were at Pintail M *Hardin* 15 Sep (MP). No one found more than 8. The last was a group of 3 near Hubbard *Hardin* on 13 Nov (DCH).

**Lapland Longspur:** The only two reports were 100 on 28 Oct at Pintail M *Hardin* (TSS) and 300 on 11 Nov in rural *Marshall* (MP).

**Smith's Longspur:** The only birds found this fall were 2 at Goose L *Clinton* on 11 Oct (SJD, TMH).

**Snow Bunting:** The first was a single bird on 2 Nov at Hales Sl *Dickinson* (LAS), followed by another single on 3 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The most was 45 on 11 Nov in rural *Marshall* (JG).

**Ovenbird:** The last two were found 2 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and 13 Oct near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Worm-eating Warbler:** Two were seen on 2 Sep, one at Shimek SF *Lee* (SJD) and the other was a yard bird for RAS in Buffalo *Scott*.

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** One was at Chichaqua *Polk* on 2 Aug (DCH).

**Northern Waterthrush:** The first few were singles on 30 Aug at Pine L *Hardin* (MP), 1 Sep at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ), and 1 Sep at Woodpecker M

Wayne (RLC). The last was 1 on 20 Sep at DeKalb WA *Decatur* (ALD).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** First found at Grammer Grove *Marshall* on 2 Sep, and then again on 4 Sep (MP). RLC had 4 on 11 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren*. The last was 1 on 17 Sep at Sparks Cemetery *Boone* (LGD).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** There were 7 reports with the last on 20 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG), a 3rd-latest date.

**Prothonotary Warbler:** All: 2 on 2 Aug at Chichaqua *Polk* (DCH), 2 on 6 Aug at Sandpiper RA *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 7 Aug at Frenchtown P *Clayton* (MP), and 1 on 10 Sep at Pleasant Creek WA *Jackson* (KMc), a 3rd-latest date.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** BSc estimated 15 on 28 Aug at Squaw Creek *Linn*. The last was 1 on 27 Sep in rural *Clinton* (KMc).

**Tennessee Warbler:** A very early migrant was in rural *Howard* 12 Aug (CJL-details). The next wasn't found until 19 days later on 31 Aug at Pilot Knob *Hancock* (JB), which began a steady stream of reports in east and central Iowa. The only western report was 5 on 16 Sep at Hamburg *Fremont* (ALD). There were three October reports on the 2nd, 8th and 12th, and then another delay to the last, which was record late on 8 Nov in rural *Johnson* (JLF).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first confirmed bird was a window strike at the Des Moines library on 30 Aug, a rather early date for this species; only stunned, the bird survived (AB-details). The median arrival date in fall over the last 20 years is 10 Sep. It was followed by steady reports beginning with another early arrival on 4 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (TMH), and ending with 1 on 26 Oct near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP).

**Nashville Warbler:** There were 28 reports, including 12 on 20 Sep at Polk City

WA *Polk* (RLC). The first was 1 on 28 Aug at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ) and the last was 1 on 20 Oct at Banner WA *Warren* (JS).

**Mourning Warbler:** The first was 1 on 26 Aug at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ), followed by 2 on 28 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). The last was 1 on 4 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), matching the 3rd-latest date.

**Kentucky Warbler:** One was still at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* on 11 Sep (RLC).

**Common Yellowthroat:** As many as 20 were at Sedan *Appanoose* on 13 Sep (RLC). The last was 1 on 13 Oct in Ames (WO).

**American Redstart:** The last and only October report was 2 on 2 Oct at Center-ville Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

**Cape May Warbler:** No reports.

**Cerulean Warbler:** Rare in fall, this species was found twice, on 14 Aug at Lacey-Keosauqua *Van Buren* (RLC) and 12 Sep at Rock Creek M *Clinton* (DCH).

**Northern Parula:** There were 12 reports from the east-central two-thirds of the state with the last 2 found 27 Sep in *Clinton* (KMc).

**Magnolia Warbler:** The first few were 2 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* and 1 at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* both on 31 Aug (MP, JB), and 5 on 1 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). Reports dried up at the end of the third week in September, but then a single straggler was photographed 7 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* (LGR).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** The first of 11 reports was 1 on 22 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG) and the last was 1 on 26 Sep at *Decorah* (DC).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** The first of 10 steady reports was 1 on 16 Aug at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB) and the last was 4 on 21 Sep at Eagle Point *Clinton* (KMc).



*Yellow-rumped Warbler, Boone, 21 October 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Yellow Warbler, Spirit L, Dickinson, 21 September 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*

**Yellow Warbler:** The last was 1 on 21 Sep at Spirit L *Dickinson* (MHB).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first of 13 reports was 1 on 24 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). There were no reports from *Boone* where at least one spent the summer (Dinsmore 2013). The last 4 were at Eagle Point *Clinton* on 21 Sep (KMc).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** There were three reports of this rare fall migrant, all lacking details, spanning 22 Aug–7 Oct.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Four reports of females preceded one report of a male: 25 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JH), 26 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (JF), 28 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 2 Oct in rural *Johnson* (JLF), and 3 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

**Palm Warbler:** The first was 1 on 23 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), followed by 1 on 3 Oct at Kellerton *Ringgold* (JRL), 4 on 10 Oct at Deer Dike *Dubuque* (TMH), and 6 on 12 Oct at Rock Creek M *Clinton* (WWH).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was 1 on 14 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB).

The most was 39 counted on the day in *Jackson* on 10 Oct (TMH). Reports continued through the end of the season.

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** September reports included 2 on 2 Sep at the *Hardin* Conservation Board Headquarters (TSS), 1 at Waterworks P *Polk* 5 Sep (JB), and 1 in rural *Johnson* on 27 Sep (JLF).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** The first of 14 reports was 2 on 31 Aug at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB). The most was 5 on 3 Oct at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (JRL) and the last was 1 on 14 Oct at Shaver P *Linn* (BSc).

**Canada Warbler:** There were 20 reports of 1–3 birds with the first on 16 Aug at Manhattan P in Cedar Rapids (JF). The only two from the west were 1 on 8 Sep at Swan L *Carroll* (MT), and 1 on 16 Sep at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV). The last was 1 on 20 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first was 1 on 22 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG). Reports were steady through 2 on 21 Sep in *Dickinson* (MHB) and Mason City (PH). Then, a late individual was found 3 Oct at Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (JRL).





*Chipping Sparrow, Woodbury, 14 August 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Le Conte's Sparrow, Larry Wilson Legacy WA, Dickinson, 22 September 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** One was still singing on 5 Aug at Pleasant Creek Linn (BSc).

**Spotted Towhee:** Eleven individuals were found, beginning with 4 on 17 Oct at two locations in Polk (SJD). Reports also came from Story, Shelby and Webster (KDy, JJD, SJD, WO) with about twice as many males as females.

**Eastern Towhee:** Up to 10 were counted on 6 Aug at Lake of Three Fires SP Taylor (CJL). The last was 1 on 21 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**American Tree Sparrow:** The first 3 were at Big Creek Polk on 24 Oct (RLC). The first flock was 30 on 5 Nov in Dickinson (KMc).

**Chipping Sparrow:** The last was 1 on 29 Oct at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** On the Reis farm in Howard, 11 were counted on 10 Aug, including 4 recently fledged young (LR). Two days later, another was found down the road at Lime Springs Howard (CJL-details). An adult was photographed

2 Oct at L Shawtee Mills (ALD), and on 16 Oct, one was at Saylorville WA Dallas (RLC-details). There were five other October reports without any details.

**Field Sparrow:** The last was attending feeders near Sparks Cemetery Boone on 20 Oct (LGD).

**Vesper Sparrow:** The only report was 2 on 7 Sep at Chichaqua Polk (TMH).

**Lark Sparrow:** At Saylorville Res Polk, up to 5 were at the Oak Grove Access 1–6 Aug (JB, RLC). The only others were 1 on 8 Sep at Liscomb Marshall (MP), 1 on 10 Sep at Riverton Fremont (ALD), and 2 at Auldon Bar Fremont on 23 Sep (ALD).

**Savannah Sparrow:** In mid-Oct, flocks of 10–50 were found in marshy edges in Appanoose, Delaware, Clinton and Polk (RLC, TMH). The last was 1 on 29 Nov at Banner WA Warren (JS).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** After a good summer, this species became nearly invisible. The only report was 3 on 11 Oct at Goose L Clinton (TMH).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** The only fall re-

ports came from Kellerton Conservation Area in *Ringgold* with 3 on 1 Aug (MP) and 2 on 3 Oct (JRL).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** The first was found right on time at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* on 21 Sep (TSS), which is the median arrival date over the last 25 years. Some high counts were 20 at Buffalo Creek *Delaware* on 11 Oct (TMH) and 30 at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* 12 Oct (JS). The last was 12 at Lincoln Access *Polk* on 30 Oct (RLC).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** The first 3 were at Larry Wilson WA *Dickinson* on 22 Sep (MHB). The most was 18 on 12 Oct at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JS). Also found in *Appanoose*, *Delaware*, *Hardin*, *Johnson*, *Marshall*, *Scott* and *Shelby*. The last was 1 at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* on 26 Oct (KDy), matching the 3rd-latest date.

**Fox Sparrow:** Usually arriving in late September, the first of this species did not make itself known until 11 Oct at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (TMH). There were only 10 reports, all of single birds except for 2 on 26 Oct in *Shelby* (KDy).

**Song Sparrow:** The most was 18 on 30 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Arrived on time on 13 Sep in *Madison* (JS), which is the median arrival date over the last 22 years. The most was 10 on 16 Oct at Saylorville WA *Dallas* (RLC) and the last was 1 on 22 Oct at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Swamp Sparrow:** The most was 50 on 10 Oct at Buckshot M *Appanoose* (RLC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The first 2 were in my Mason City yard on 13 Sep, followed by 1 on 14 Sep at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZ). Larger flocks began appearing in mid-October with 33 on the 11th in *Jones* (TMH), 42 on the 14th in *Polk* (RLC), and 30 on the 16th in *Dallas* (RLC). A few were still around at the close of the season, for instance, in Carolyn Fischer's yard.

**Harris's Sparrow:** The first of six reports was 1 found 25 Sep in a Spirit Lake yard *Dickinson* (ET). The most was 14 on 16 Oct at Saylorville WA *Dallas* (RLC) and the last was 4 on 5 Nov in rural *Dickinson* (KMc).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** The first, and only September report, was 1 at Eagle Point *Clinton* on 21 Sep (KMc). The next, on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC), began a steady series of reports ending on 30 Oct at Saylorville *Polk* (RLC). Then, a month later, on the last day of the season, 1 was reported at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JS).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The first was about a week late on 29 Sep at Squaw Creek P Linn (JF). It was followed by eight October reports of 1–3, and then finally a larger count of 84 occurred on 5 Nov in rural *O'Brien* (KMc).

**Summer Tanager:** A late family group of 3 was found 20 Aug at Jester P *Polk* (SJD). Also reported from *Fremont*, *Mills*, and *Johnson* (MP, ALD, CRE). The last was 1 on 3 Oct at Jester Park (SJD).

**Scarlet Tanager:** There were ten reports of 1 or 2 birds from eight scattered counties. The last three were singles on 21 Sep in rural *Clinton* (KMc), 21 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), and 25 Sep at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (ALD).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** As many as 45 were counted 13 Sep at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC, TNJ). The last 2 were at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* 3 Oct (LZ).

**Blue Grosbeak:** On an Audubon Field Trip in *Woodbury* on 17 Aug, 13 were counted on the day (GLV). The last were actually in the east and included 2 on 27 Aug at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* that stayed through 5 Sep (James Huntington *fide* BSc, LGR).

**Indigo Bunting:** The high count was at least 20 at Buckshot M *Appanoose* 13 Sep



*Blue Grosbeak, Boone, 30 August 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

(TJN, RLC), where one lingered until 10 Oct (RLC), the last date in the state.

**Dickcissel:** A very late nest with three recently-hatched young was found 26 Aug in southern *Hancock* (EK-photo). As many as 13 were at Hendrickson M *Story* 6 Sep (TMH). The last two reports were 4 on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC), and 1 on 10 Oct at Buckshot M *Appanoose* (RLC).

**Bobolink:** The only large flock was 150 on 28 Aug at Brown's Sl *Lucas* (RLC). The next largest flock was 19 on 31 Aug at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (JB). The last was a single bird at Buffalo Creek *Delaware* on 22 Oct (TMH), a 3rd-latest date.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** The last heard was on 4 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (RLC).

**Meadowlark species:** The last report was 1 on 30 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** The only

report was 8 birds at Colo Ponds *Story* on 16 Aug (MP).

**Rusty Blackbird:** The first was a single bird at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* on 9 Oct (CJF), followed by 13 in *Jackson* the following day (TMH). Two noteworthy groups were reported on 10 Nov, 212 at Rush L *Osceola* (LAS) and 120 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** The only two reports were 30 on 4 Nov at Green Bay Bottoms *Lee* (JLF, JWR) and 13 on 5 Nov in *Osceola* (KMc).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** No reports.

**Orchard Oriole:** One was at Squaw Creek P *Linn* 20 Aug (BSc) and another was at Lake Shawtee *Fremont* 11 Sep (ALD).

**Baltimore Oriole:** The last confirmed was photographed at a feeder it visited in *Algona Kossuth* 7–23 Nov (Connie Ristau *vide* MCK).

**Purple Finch:** The only report was a female visiting water in an Ottosen yard *Humboldt* 18 Sep (JN).

**Red Crossbill:** No reports.

**White-winged Crossbill:** No reports.

**Common Redpoll:** No reports.

**Pine Siskin:** There were four odd reports of single birds that included 1 on 6 Aug at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (EMB), 1 on 7 Sep in Mason City (RG), 1 on 5 Nov in rural *O'Brien* (KMc), and 1 on 26 Nov north of Iowa City *Johnson* (JLF), plus one report of 20 in Freeport *Winneshiek* on 23 Oct (LR).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** There were 5 on 12 Oct at Princeton WA *Clinton* (JB), 8 on 17 Nov at Sand L *Johnson* (JLF), and 36 on 24 Nov in rural *Louisa* (KMc).

## COMMENT

This article was made possible by the collective contributions of 77 field observers whose initials appear in the text and whose names are listed below, plus another 11 whose full names are contained in the text. They contributed a total of 2340 records containing not just data, but also many supporting details, comments and photos which help properly

frame the summary of events. The comments are especially helpful in understanding the data, separating species, clarifying circumstances, and sometimes just adding perspective. Here is a short sample – “rusty head (with a shaggy crest) and neck”, “upturned bill; dark cap; pale face”, “red eye and remnants of white border to pink facial skin”, “in a farm grove”, “perched on fences”, “streaming over Hobby Lobby”, “flying at dusk”, “have a poor photo if you need it”, “seen by my Dad”.

These reports covered at least 312 distinct locations in Iowa from 74 of Iowa’s 99 counties, although 51% of all reports came from just 7 heavily-birded counties. These counties, in order of greatest frequency, are Polk, Appanoose, Clinton, Johnson, Story, Marshall, and Jackson. The reports contributed to the summarizing of the presence of 264 species from August 1 to November 30. There were 27 other common species for which at least some data were contributed, but which are not included in this report. These species are Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, American Crow, Horned Lark, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

This report also makes use of data collected and previously published elsewhere. Some of the sources of these data are USFWS fall aerial surveys along the Mississippi River, USFWS waterfowl counts at De Soto NWR, Iowa DNR August Roadside Surveys, the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the IA-Bird listserv.

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# Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch and Banding, Fall 2013

*Mark Orsag*

This was an odd and contradictory season at Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch (HNCH). It was, however, one that brought the increasing trend of October as the “make or break” month for a Hitchcock hawk counting season into sharp relief. During the 2013 season, two-thirds of all raptors counted were tallied in October, a new record. No other month this season ranked higher than 7th out of the 11 seasons of full-time counting at Hitchcock: December was the worst in HNCH history, November the 3rd worst, August the 4th worst, and September the 5th worst. The October 2013 total of 8,891 raptors (an average of 287 raptors a day for the month), however, was the best October in Hitchcock history and boosted the 2013 season total (13,365) to second best ever behind only the 2005 season. Of the nineteen species of raptors recorded annually at HNCH, no less than eleven posted peak month totals during the month of October in 2013. A number of species, including Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, and Prairie Falcon, have shifted toward October peaks in recent years. All of these species peaked (or nearly peaked) in October this season. The strong overall season totals in 2013 were particularly surprising in a year when three of the four most consistently abundant raptor migrants (Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Red-tailed Hawk) posted totals ranging from 9% to 39% below their 11-year HNCH averages.

Otherwise, the overall distribution of species results was unremarkable with nine species having below average totals and ten having average or above-average totals. New season records were set in 2013 for Osprey, Cooper’s Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Ferruginous Hawk. With a long history of full-time coverage that now exceeds a decade, new day records are getting harder to set than formerly and only two were set in 2013: 936 Broad-winged Hawks on 28 September and 2 Ferruginous Hawks on 29 October. It was also a notable year for the American Kestrel, a species that had shown a strong pattern of decline at HNCH until 2013. Hopefully, this positive trend will continue in future seasons. Some other species, however, posted record or near-record season totals including Red-shouldered Hawk (season worst in full-coverage era), Red-tailed Hawk (season worst in full coverage era), and Rough-legged Hawk (tied for season worst in full-coverage era).

## SPECIES ACCOUNTS

**Turkey Vulture** (2,979). This was a somewhat below average year for Turkey Vultures with 2013’s count coming in at 10% below the 11-year average for HNCH. The flight started very slowly in September

(the moderate to strong southerly winds that produce the biggest flights of this species at Hitchcock not being very much in evidence) and never fully recovered. October remained the top month for Turkey Vultures with the peak flight of 339 occurring with fairly av-

erage timing on 8 October. The last Turkey Vulture straggled through on 30 October. A leucistic Turkey Vulture was counted on 22 September.

**Osprey** (211). After a poor showing in 2012, the Osprey flight rebounded to an HNCH new season record in 2013. This total constituted a flight that was 66% above the HNCH average. The first two Ospreys appeared on 25 August. September was, as always, the peak month with the peak flight of 30 occurring on 18 September. The last bird moved through on 18 October. Usually, the Osprey and Turkey Vulture flights display similar seasonal trends because both of these species are south-wind "tackers." Ospreys, however, seem to show more willingness to move behind fronts and with tailwinds. That made a big difference this year. Peak flights for both species, however, occurred on moderate to strong SSE wind days.

**Mississippi Kite** (1). A single adult was recorded on 8 September. The 2013 count was 83% below average for HNCH. This species is actually quite uncommon at HNCH. It has been missed entirely twice during the fill-coverage era and recent trends have been quite negative. Early on in HNCH history, we developed a mistaken impression that this raptor was in fact a more common migrant at Hitchcock than has subsequently turned out to be the case. The unique and remarkable (pre-full coverage) 2000 season when 38 (including 14 in one day) of these graceful raptors were counted surely heavily influenced those incorrect perceptions.

**Bald Eagle** (839). An often excruciatingly slow late season in November and December helped produce a below average Bald Eagle flight (though a stronger than normal start in September and October blunted the impact a bit). Season totals were, in the end, only 9% below average. The peak month, however, was still November. The first bird

was counted on 1 September. The somewhat weak peak flight of 73 occurred with normal timing on 21 November.

**Northern Harrier** (236). Something of a poor flight for harriers this season at Hitchcock with the 2013 season total coming in at 16% below average. The first harrier was counted on 9 September with the last 2 recorded on 25 November. October was, as usual, the top month. The fairly shallow peak flight of 28 occurred with normal timing on 28 October. This is the second below average year in a row for this species at Hitchcock.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** (1,114). The 2012 season was very poor for Sharp-shinned Hawks at Hitchcock with that season's count being the 2nd worst in HNCH history and being fully 22% below average. The 2013 flight constituted a sharp rebound with the season total coming in at 13% above average. This positive change was largely due to an impressive 2-day burst of Sharp-shinned Hawks on 9 and 10 October. The peak flight of 198 occurred on the 9th but was nearly matched the next day on the 10th (190). The first Sharp-shinned Hawk was recorded on 5 September. The last southbound bird was counted on 17 December. October was easily the peak month. When counting first began at Hitchcock, Sharp-shinned Hawks peaked in some years in October and in other years in September. In recent years, it has been October 100% of the time.

**Cooper's Hawk** (376). The 2013 count represented a new season record for this species at HNCH. It was 51% above the 11-year HNCH average. Like that of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the timing of the Cooper's Hawk migration is shifting later into the season. In 2013, October (and not September as has always been the case in the past at HNCH) was the peak month. The peak flight of 38 in 2013 occurred rather late, on

9 October. The last Cooper's Hawk was recorded on 10 December. Long-term trends for this species at Hitchcock are quite consistently positive. This species was also the only *Accipiter* to post solid totals at Hitchcock in 2012.

**Northern Goshawk** (5). This total was just one bird away from matching the 11-year Hitchcock average, but due to the low numbers of this uncommon species seen at Hitchcock constituted a flight that was 17% below average. The first goshawk (a juvenile) was seen on 9 October (a banner day for *Accipiters* indeed!) and the peak flight of 2 occurred on 24 October. All five birds were recorded in October this season.

**Red-shouldered Hawk** (1). This is one of the most unpredictable annual migrants at HNCH. In 2012, we set a season record with 11 birds, but this season's total plummeted to a full-coverage era record-worst mark. The 2013 total was 80% below average. The one bird, an adult, appeared on 6 September. A pattern for this species at HNCH is very difficult to discern and migrants seem to appear almost randomly. The Red-shouldered Hawk can peak in almost any month.

**Broad-winged Hawk** (1,761). After several strong seasons, Broad-winged Hawk numbers plunged in 2012. That season's count was 26% below the 10-year average. This year, however, long-term positive trends for this species at HNCH reasserted themselves strongly. The 2013 total was 136% above average and constituted a new season record. The peak flight of 936 on 28 September was a new day record. The first migrating Broad-winged Hawk was observed on 1 September with the last bird passing though on 13 October. September was, as always, the peak month. Two dark morphs were recorded.

**Swainson's Hawk** (3,529). While not a new season record, this total was 173%

above average and represented a banner year for this species at HNCH. The first Swainson's Hawk was recorded on 10 September. Two huge flights highlighted this season's migration. An impressive 1,825 birds were counted in very difficult foggy and rainy conditions on 6 October (surely more were hidden from the eyes of the three observers on the tower by the mist and murk). That huge but truly bizarre flight was followed by a much more classic day of Swainson's Hawk migration at HNCH with 1,141 more counted on 7 October. October was, needless to say, the peak month. The last two were recorded on 16 October. The season total included 7 dark morphs and 3 rufous morphs.

**Red-tailed Hawk** (1,919). The 2012 total was 21% below average and represented the 2nd lowest total for Red-tailed Hawks in the full-coverage era that began at Hitchcock in 2003. This season's total continued and amplified these recent negative trends. In 2013, the season total was a record worst and was 39% below average. The very weak peak flight of 128 occurred on 24 October. October, however, was still the peak month. The season total included 9 Krider's, 37 Harlan's, 15 Western dark morphs, 3 Western rufous morphs, 29 dark-morph indeterminate, and 2 leucistic.

**Rough-legged Hawk** (19). 2013 was the second poor season in a row for this species. The 2013 season total also tied for an HNCH full-coverage season worst mark. The peak count of 3 was replicated three times in the month of November (12th, 16th, and 21st). November was the top month. The first Rough-leg of the autumn season was counted on 24 October. Oddly, no dark morphs were seen this season.

**Ferruginous Hawk** (3). This fall's count was a new season record for these always highly anticipated raptors. This Loess Hills migrant has fluctuated annually within



a narrow 0 to 2 bird range at HNCH. The 2013 count finally broke this pattern. This year's sightings occurred on 22 (light juvenile) and 24 (a light juvenile and a light adult) October. The peak month was, of course, October, and the peak flight of 2 on 24 October was a new HNCH day record. Westerly wind front days in late October seem to offer the best chance to spot this Iowa rarity at HNCH.

**Golden Eagle** (19). This was a very average year for the Golden Eagle at HNCH. The season total was exactly average, the peak month was, as usual, November. The first (7 October) and last (18 December) birds were both singles and typically timed. Another odd but predictable trend was the widely-spaced multiple peak flights of two birds on 24 October, 1 November, and 28 November. We have never really been able to explain this pattern, but we have seen it steadily throughout Hitchcock's history.

**American Kestrel** (151). Bad news on the kestrel has been consistent at HNCH, but this season was an exception. The pattern of decline, which has been apparent for this species over the last decade, was broken by a count that was nearly double what had been recorded in 2012 and 35% above average! The 2012 count had been the worst in HNCH history (indeed far below many of the only partial coverage years prior to 2003); the 2012 total was also 44% below the 10-year full coverage average. This pattern of decline has been reflected at many hawk watches across North America. In 2013, the first kestrel (they no longer nest in the Hitchcock area as far as we know) appeared on 1 September. The last appeared on 13 November. The peak flight of 26 occurred on 7 October, and Octo-

ber and September shared the title of peak month for kestrels at HNCH (74). Thus, the kestrel migration not only bucked the trend of decline but was also extraordinarily late.

**Merlin** (61). The 2012 season saw a reversal of recent positive trends for this species at HNCH with the season total logging in at 13 % below average. The broader pattern of increase reasserted itself this season, however, as the 2013 count logged in at 33% above average. As usual, both the *columbarius* and *richardsonii* subspecies were seen. The first Merlin appeared on 9 September with the last being counted on 3 December. October was the top month, and the peak flight of 6 occurred on 11 October. This year was very strong overall for falcons at HNCH.

**Peregrine Falcon** (96). The Peregrine total fell even more sharply than the Merlin total did in 2012. That total was 35% below average and plunged precipitously from the record total posted in 2011. Once again, however, 2013 proved to be a rebound season for these much anticipated raptors. The 2013 count was 81% above average. The first Peregrine powered past on 6 September with the last moving through on 20 November. September was still the peak month, and the peak flight of 15 occurred with normal timing on 27 September.

**Prairie Falcon** (3). It would have been hard to top the 2012 season for these large falcons (2012 had produced a record eight birds with two of those captured at the banding station). The 2013 season total was 25% (but only one bird) below the 11-year HNCH average. The flight was widely spaced with single individuals recorded on 10 September (early, but not record early), 12 October, and 16 November.

## NONRAPTOR FLIGHT

While the main focus at HNCH is counting migrant raptors, we maintain regular an-

nual migration counts of eleven other bird species and note what we can, when we can, in terms of other birds flying by or seen around the watch tower. Totals for these 11 species in 2013 were:

**Great Blue Heron** (40). A very solid showing this fall.

**American White Pelican** (17,032). This was a very strong flight year for this species.

**Double-crested Cormorant** (22,435). Huge numbers; a 10,000 bird day on 6 October really helped put this season's total into the stratosphere.

**Snow Goose** (36,611). A terrible total; from mid-November to the end of the season (the typical peak of Snow Goose migration) nothing was moving. Where did they go? We have had counts approaching 1,000,000 in past seasons!

**Ross's Goose** (4). As the Snow Goose count goes, so goes the Ross's Goose count.

**Franklin's Gull** (6,889). Not a great count by any means and surely many were missed in the fog and rain on 6 October. Big flights of Swainson's Hawks and Franklin's Gulls often occur simultaneously at HNCH.

**Ring-billed Gull** (124). Neither gull species showed well this year.

**Red-headed Woodpecker** (1,046).

The last two seasons have shown a nice recovery for this species after a worrisome two-year dip.

**Blue Jay** (4,331). The flights have shifted later into the season with October (not September) as the peak month for Blue Jay migration at HNCH. This year's flight, however, was pretty average.

**American Crow** (14,813). Slightly below normal numbers this fall.

**Eastern Kingbird** (5). Another terrible count in a lengthening string of terrible counts. We used to see lots of these birds winging south in August and early September.

Other notable species seen this fall were Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, Great Egret, *Plegadis* sp., Sandhill Crane, Herring Gull, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ryan Evans again served, with distinction, as Hawk Counter in 2013. We also are grateful to for the amazing efforts of our volunteers: Elliott Bedows, Rheda Boardman, Shirley Boardman, Matt Boren, Dave Cathrell, Dan Cassidy, Payton Conner, Susan Cropp, Vern Cummins, Ben DeLong, John DeLong, Pearl DeLong, Linda Dennis, John Donelson, Linda Donelson, Darrell Eich, Jerry von Ehwegen, Silas Gaddie, Betty Grenon, Dianne Guinn, Helen Harvey, Candace Havelly, Colin Helgeson, Richard Hendrick, Craig Hensley, Noah Hensley, James Huntington, Jenny Jares, Kim Jares, Jessie Jewell, Judy Kading, Richard Kendrick, Lisa King, Clem Klaphake, Mary Kramer, Kay Lafreniere, Jean Laskey, Brian Lube, Don Maas, Shirley Maas, Mike Madsen, Jim Murdock, Sue Mattix, Jason McMeen, Veronica Mecko, Jim Meyer, Greg Nelson, Mark Orsag, Bill Overland, Jane Overland, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Don Paseka, Janis Paseka, Holly Peterson, Myron Peterson, Dick Pouchert, Sandy Reinken, Maria Rundquist, Rex Rundquist, Joe Schaufenbuel, Lynn Schaufenbuel, Duane Schwery, Kathy Schwery, Jim Sinclair, Kent Skaggs, Greg Stempien, Dorie Stone, Mark Swansiger, Sandy Swansiger, Phil Swanson, Chris Whittier, Fred Zeilemaker, Molly Zeilemaker, and last (but certainly not least), Jerry Toll, who remains at the center of all the efforts, both in terms of banding and hawk counting that take place at Hitchcock every fall. Thanks again also to the wonderful Hitchcock Nature Center staff-- Kelly Dix, Chad Graeve, Erin Kenney, Chad Kunze and Tina Popson for all their help!

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# Raptor Banding at Hitchcock Hawk Watch, Fall 2013

*Jerry Toll*

The annual raptor migration monitoring that takes place each fall at Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch (HNCH) has been a primary focus for the past 11 years. For the last seven years we have also been banding raptors and collecting age, gender, health, and subspecies data on the individuals we capture. Here, we report on those efforts for the fall 2013 migration season.

## RAPTOR BANDING EFFORTS

What an unusual diurnal raptor banding season we had this fall. In past years, Red-tailed Hawks comprised more than 61% of the total birds banded in a season; this year they comprised just 49%. This was the second lowest total for the total number of Red-tailed Hawks captured in a season and corresponds to the lowest migration count at the hawk watch in the last 10 years. Most Red-tailed Hawks we've banded have been juveniles, and the ratio of juveniles to adults in previous seasons ranged between 2:1 and 4.4:1. This season, we had our lowest ratio ever of 1.6:1. During the history of the banding effort we have also been seeing a steady decline in both the ratio of juveniles to adults and the total number of Red-tailed Hawks banded. This is a long-term monitoring effort and the combined information of the banding effort and the low hawk watch total suggests that migratory Red-tailed Hawks did not have a successful 2013 breeding season. Conversely, the second and third most frequent species in our sampling, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks, respectively, had their best showing ever this year. Both species exhibited a low juvenile to adult ratio, although the total number of juveniles captured was similar to past years. The difference was that this year there was an unusually large number of adults of both species banded, due in large part to a stalled cold front in the Dakotas on 7-10 October. In its wake, we banded 56 raptors, 33 of which were Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. Given that we banded a total of 173 raptors during the entire season, it made for a very exciting 4 days! On November 4th we recaptured a Red-tailed Hawk that we had first banded on 23 October 2009, the second recapture in our history. Overall, the diversity of raptor species banded was about average this season and included singles of Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon.

## NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING ACTIVITIES

Northern Saw-whet Owls can demonstrate characteristics of both an irruptive migratory species and a regular migrant. Both types were clearly demonstrated this season. One characteristic of an irruptive migrant is that the number of individuals can vary widely between migration seasons. This fall at HNCH we banded 26 Northern Saw-whet Owls compared to between 36 and 72 in each of the last 4 years. However, our banding effort

was hampered this year by unfavorable weather conditions and unfavorable moon cycles that resulted in decreased hours of operation. To compensate, we compared the number of owls captured to the number of hours that went into the effort each season. We found that the ratio this year was very close to 2009 when 36 owls were banded. In most years, the majority of Northern Saw-whet Owls banded are juveniles. This fall, the ratio of juveniles to adults was nearly reversed; most were adults with only five juveniles captured. This suggests that reproductive success was low this year, which was underscored by similar results at most Northern Saw-whet Owl banding efforts to our east. Our biggest excitement was learning that a Northern Saw-whet Owl we banded in 2012 was recaptured this fall north of Sacramento, California! In contrast, we also recaptured an individual that we first banded in 2010 at HNCH. Sometimes they are loyal to migratory routes and sometimes they aren't.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The banding effort at Hitchcock Nature Center could not be accomplished without the continuing financial support of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Pottawattamie County Conservation Foundation, the Audubon Society of Omaha, and Des Moines Audubon. We also thank this season's visitors to the banding station.

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## **First Nesting Record for Black-necked Stilt in Iowa**

*Brandon Caswell and Stephen J. Dinsmore*

The 2013 spring season in Iowa was characterized by the wettest April and May in more than 140 years of record keeping (Harms 2013). One consequence was a prevalence of sheetwater in low-lying areas that are typically dry in summer. The sudden appearance of this habitat was a boon for many waterbirds, some of which opportunistically exploited these wetlands for breeding. This was especially evident just east of Iowa Falls in Hardin County, where extensive sheetwater and the newly-constructed Pintail Wetland attracted many waterbirds. On 28 July 2013 Tom Schilke reported a pair of Black-necked Stilts approximately 4.25 miles east of Iowa Falls in a flooded field along the north side of County Road D15, a site that was historically a shallow depressional wetland (Tom Schilke, pers. comm.).

The birds were seen again on 4 August and both of us independently planned future visits to the site.

At approximately 1:30 P.M. on 7 August Caswell visited the drying patch of sheetwater in search of the stilts. He quickly spotted both adults and started photographing them from the road. Less than a minute later one of the adults quickly ran out of the shallow water making a yipping sound. It then dropped to its belly and started doing a broken-wing display (Figure 1). Noticing several other species of shorebirds, Caswell did an additional scan of the wetland and suddenly noticed a small, white, fuzzy bird on two long legs (Figure 2). He immediately recognized it as a Black-necked Stilt chick from recent images sent to him by a friend in Florida. Based on later research, the chick appeared to be about one week old.

At approximately 1 P.M. on 9 August Dinsmore visited the sheetwater along County Road D15 and found it dry. A

brief 10-minute search of the site failed to produce any sighting of the stilts; he presumed the nesting attempt failed and the birds had departed. On his return to Ames he decided to visit the newly-created Pintail Wetland located 0.75 mile east and 1.25 miles south of the sheetwater area (about 1.5 miles distant in a straight line). Almost immediately he found 2 adult Black-necked Stilts, an obvious pair. A short time later one of the adults began



*Figure 1. Black-necked Stilt doing broken-wing display, Hardin, 7 August 2013. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



*Figure 2. Black-necked Stilt chick, Hardin, 7 August 2013. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

chasing other shorebirds from the north shore of the wetland and he soon located a small stilt chick feeding in shallow water along the wetland edge. This must have been the same family group noted earlier, which had made a substantial overland trek to Pintail Wetland when the sheetwater along D15 dried up. The stilts were last seen on 10 August despite later searching, suggesting that the nesting attempt failed.

This represents the first nesting record for Black-necked Stilt in Iowa. This species has undergone a rapid northward expansion in the Great Plains and along the Mississippi River Valley in the last two decades (Robinson et al. 1999). It has nested in most states adjacent to Iowa and future nesting attempts are likely as this species continues to expand northward. Using a mean incubation period of 24 days, 5 additional days for egg-laying (clutch size is typically 4-5 eggs; Robinson et al. 1999), and the chick's age on 7 August, we estimate that this nest was initiated on or about 2 July. It is also notable that in summer 2013 Iowa had its first confirmed nesting record of American Avocet (Dinsmore and Schoenewe 2013).

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## **Records from the Past: Hooded and Bullock's Orioles**

*Ann M. Johnson*

ADDENDUM TO RECORDS FROM THE PAST—HOODED ORIOLE (IOWA BIRD LIFE 83:166)

Photos of a bird observed on 25 May 2003 near Fairbank, Buchanan County were accepted as Iowa's first record. Although there was no question that the photos were of a Hooded Oriole, the Records Committee had a lengthy discussion about provenance.



Figure 1. Hooded Oriole, near Fairbank, Buchanan, 25 May 2003. Photograph by Judy Meinecke, Fairbank, IA.

Data on vagrancy of this species are sparse and orioles are often found in captivity in Mexico (Bob Cecil, pers. comm.). There are, however, accepted records from Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, and Quebec in addition to states in the Southeastern U.S. Ultimately the committee concluded that the likelihood of vagrancy was far greater than that of an escaped cage bird and it was accepted.

#### FIRST IOWA RECORD OF BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

On 12 May 1993 Holly Humpal of Clemons in Marshall County noted an oriole in her backyard. On closer

inspection she was surprised to see that it did not have the entirely black head of the expected Baltimore Oriole and she studied it carefully through binoculars over the course of the next three hours. Her notes describe the bird as primarily orange with a small amount of black going from the beak into the neck area, a slight black eye stripe, black on top of the head going down to the middle of the back, and top part of wing black with a large white wing bar and the rest of the wing black and white striped. The orange tail had a narrow black stripe down the middle.

At the time of this report, Bullock's Oriole was still considered a subspecies of Northern Oriole by the American Ornithologists' Union and was reported as such in the 1993 spring seasonal field reports (Kent 1993). When the species were split in 1995, the Iowa Records Committee reviewed all previous reports of Bullock's Oriole and accepted this one as the first state record (Kent 1996). Bullock's Oriole is a western species with a range that overlaps that of Baltimore Oriole in the western prairies. A zone of hybridization occurs in the Great Plains and the bird may be easily found as close to us as western Nebraska. Vagrancy has been noted in nearly every state in eastern North America.

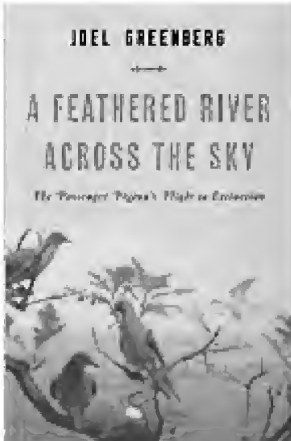
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# Book Review

James J. Dinsmore



*A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction* by Joel Greenberg. 2014. 289 pp., 23 color illustrations, Bloomsbury, New York, ISBN 978-1-62040-534-5, \$26.00 (hard cover).

This year, ornithologists and conservationists will note the 100th anniversary of the death of Martha, the last known surviving Passenger Pigeon. With her death on 1 September 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo, what was once almost certainly the most abundant bird species in North America and perhaps in the world was exterminated. Despite its abundance, almost no scientific studies were done on the species while it was extant and much of what we know about it consists of stories of its exploitation, many of them published in newspapers. Much of that information was thoroughly summarized nearly 60 years ago (A. W. Schorger, *The Passenger Pigeon*, University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1955). That book has long been out-of-print and although a reprint is now available, most present-day birders know little about the species other than stories of its vast abundance and depressing accounts of how it was exploited.

Huge flocks of pigeons that darkened the sky as they streaked northward amazed pioneering American ornithologists John Audubon and Alexander Wilson. Even now, a century later, it is hard to comprehend how a species that once had nesting colonies containing millions of birds could be reduced to only a few remnant birds by 1900. But reading the story of a nesting colony in 1871 near Sparta, Wisconsin that covered some 850 square miles and numbered in the tens of millions of birds provides some idea of how vast this resource was. Clearly the relentless killing of adults near the nesting colony as well as their young on the nest and often the desertion of the colony leaving behind countless young birds doomed to a death from starvation provides some idea of how excessive the killing was.

Greenberg, a research associate at the Chicago Field Museum, provides a good account of the species, discussing major aspects of its breeding and wintering ranges, seasonal movements, breeding biology, and food habits. In brief, it was a highly nomadic species, known for forming huge flocks that roosted together in dense concentrations, flew out to feeding areas during the day, and returned to the roost or nesting areas late in the day. It fed largely on various nuts and seeds, being especially attracted to beechnuts and acorns. It nested largely in southern Canada and the Great Lakes states with Iowa being at the western fringe of its main nesting range. Greenberg provides considerable information about its habits, describing in detail how humans exploited the species, at first by local



hunters and eventually by professional hunters who followed the pigeons to wherever they nested in a particular year and killed thousands of birds, most of which were shipped off to distant markets. This exploitation grew as means of transportation evolved, especially with the development of a more extensive railroad system with refrigerated rail cars that allowed birds to be shipped to distant markets. By the 1870s, the number of nesting sites was much reduced and as described by Greenberg, by the 1880s, the nesting colonies were much smaller and most were decimated by hunters. By 1900, only a few scattered birds and three small captive flocks remained. The end was inevitable.

One cannot read this book without wondering how it was possible to reduce the huge flocks to extinction in just a few decades and why no one led a concerted effort to save the species before it was too late. The author of one bill that might have helped slow the slaughter was Congressman John Lacey of Oskaloosa (Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in southeastern Iowa is named for him). In arguing for passage of his bill in 1900, he noted that his bill to prohibit the movement of wildlife that was taken illegally in one state to another state was too late for the wild pigeon, which by then was essentially extirpated. Lacey's bill, known as the Lacey Act, was the first federal law to provide significant protection for wildlife and is still used in court cases.

Iowa, with its location on the western edge of the species' breeding range, receives little attention in this book starting with the report by Zebulon Pike that pigeons were nesting on islands in the Mississippi River in Iowa or Illinois in 1805 and ending with one shot near Keokuk in 1896. Unmentioned are numerous accounts of Passenger Pigeons, mainly in eastern Iowa, where large flocks were reported in several cities in the 1850s and 1860s and a large nesting colony covering perhaps two by 20 miles was noted in Allamakee County, probably in the mid-1860s.

The loss of the Passenger Pigeon is one of the most tragic of any North American bird species. For those unfamiliar with the story of its glory and demise, this book provides a good summary of the species' biology and the factors involved in its decline. That story is a stark reminder of what can happen to even a super-abundant species.

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# Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

As usual, one of the main features of the March 1964 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was the results of the Christmas Bird Count. A total of 25 counts were made in 1963, with Davenport again having the most species with 71. Only five counts had at least 50 species and 12 had fewer than 30 species. However, no Canada Geese or Wild Turkeys were reported on any count, Eurasian Collared-Dove and House Finch would not reach Iowa until the 1990s, and Rock Pigeons were still not considered a bird. Those five species are reported on most Iowa counts now. And Bald Eagles were found on only seven counts, six of them along the Mississippi River. It is now the most counted raptor on Iowa CBCs. A lot has changed in 50 years. A highlight of the 1963 counts was the appearance of Evening Grosbeaks on five counts and being reported during the count week on six more.

In an annual feature, Dean Roosa summarized the totals of 20 bird banders for the year. A total of 17,153 individuals of 172 species were banded during 1963. Three of the reporters accounted for two thirds of the birds banded. Four species (Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow) accounted for 45% of the birds. Some of the more unusual species banded included one each of Dunlin and White-eyed Vireo, and three Say's Phoebes.

A short article by Dean Roosa summarized some experiments he made with the homing ability of several species. Most of the birds tested were caught at their nest and released from one to 8 miles away. All returned to the nest, usually within 24 hours.

The field reports included a respectable number of sightings for the winter season. Included were several reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills and a report of two Bohemian Waxwings as well as the usual wintering birds. Among the short notes, the most interesting was the report of two Whooping Cranes at Riverton Wildlife Area in late October. Other than the comment that they were an adult and a juvenile, no details were given for the birds.

Among the book reviews, a publication by Richard and Jean Graber of the Illinois Natural History Survey was perhaps the most interesting. They surveyed birds across three east-west transects across Illinois in 1956-58, repeating a similar survey done in 1906-09. The results provided fascinating data on the population changes of many common species, especially various grassland species. Similar surveys were done in 2006-2008, providing yet another view of the changes that have occurred with many species. Many of the results are probably relevant to changes in birdlife that have occurred in Iowa.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:** Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**Photos and graphics:** Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at [cootjr@iastate.edu](mailto:cootjr@iastate.edu). Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 ([cjcaster@earthlink.net](mailto:cjcaster@earthlink.net)).

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION:** Spring: 16–18 May 2014, Bellevue, Nebraska (joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists' Union).

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Blackburnian Warbler, *Boone*, 24 August 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Belted Kingfisher, *Woodbury*, 14 August 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

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